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THE BUILDERS
OF THE PYRAMID

The Story of Shelby County:

Its Resources and Developments.

WRITTEN FOR

THE SHELBY COUNTY CENTENNIAL BOARD

BY

JOSEPH R. WILLIAMS.

MEMPHIS:
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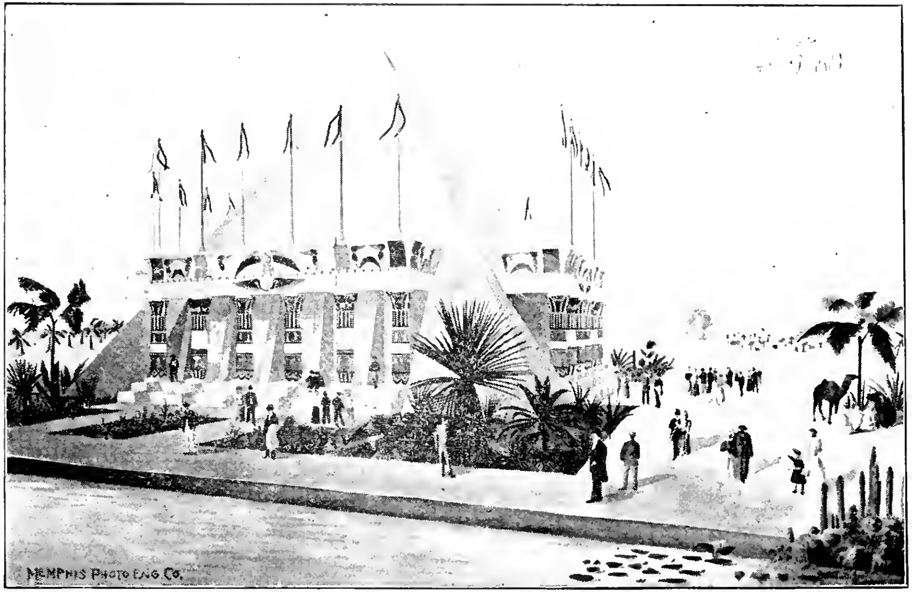


Photo by Hanson's Park Gallery. From Original Design by James B Cook, Architect.

SHELBY COUNTY BUILDING, TENNESSEE CENTENNIAL.

The Story of Shelby County.

I—THE ABORIGINES.

Apply a carpenter's square to the extreme Southwestern corner of the map of Tennessee so as to cut off a little piece of the State in the shape of almost a perfect square, and the territory of Shelby County is geographically located.

On the North and East it lies in the arms of its sister counties of Tipton and Fayette: on the South the great State of Mississippi serves as its footstool, while the waves of the lordly Father of Waters bathe its entire Western boundary. It is a goodly tract of land, well watered and heavily wooded with valuable timber. The surface of the country is undulating, rising into sunny hillsides and falling into rich bottom lands. Wolf river, with its tributaries, breaks through the Southern portion of the Eastern line and flows Westward and Northward. Hatchie river rolls into the County from the Northeast and sends its limpid waters to join the tawny waves of Wolf just before the double current empties into the mighty Mississippi.

More than a thousand years ago the site of Shelby County was occupied by a race of men, who have left many traces of their occupancy for the conjectures of posterity; but of whom little is definitely known. This race, the prehistoric Mound Builders, was certainly at one time in possession of this section of the country. Their mounds are found throughout the region and one of the noblest of them crowns the high Chickasaw bluffs, that stand as sentinels for the land against the mighty current of the broad river.

The location of this mound is picturesque and grand. If it served as a signal station to this long-ago extinct race it could not have been better placed. If used only as a tomb, those who were buried beneath its huge weight may well have been mighty men; for, excepting the pyramids of Egypt and other mounds of similar kind, no mausoleum rears a more stupendous bulk to the stars.

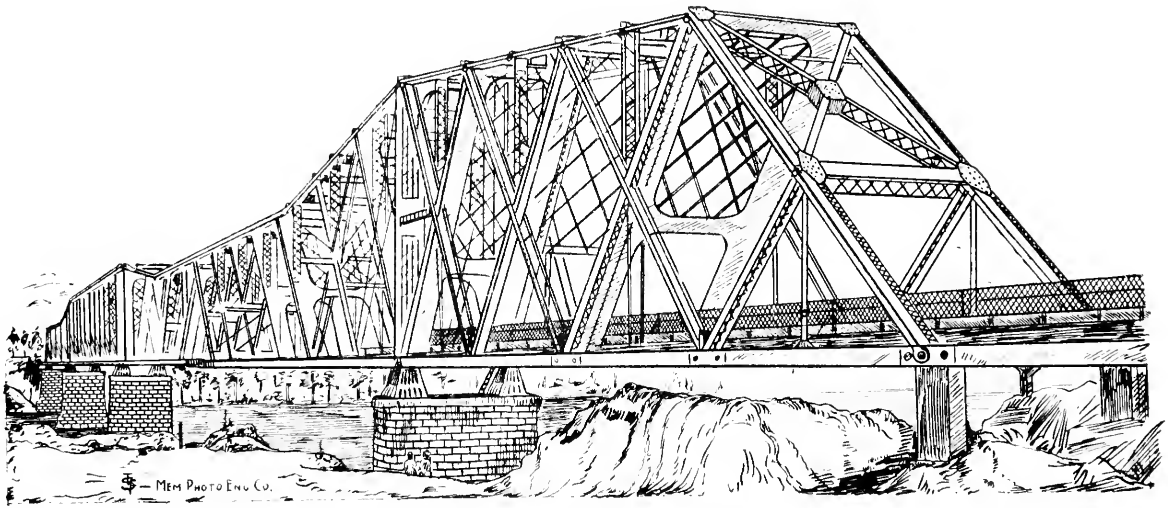
The students of archaeology and the curiously inclined have spent much time and money digging into the bowels of these hillocks, to find only a few bones, mingled with earthenware utensils and, occasionally, according to Ignatius Donnelly and others, both stone and copper implements of warfare.

If this be true, then does the discovery of these copper implements throw a flash-light of great interest upon that remarkable jump from the age of stone to the age of bronze, attributed to the races of Europe. If indeed, these Mound Builders were workers in copper it is evident that with them, at least, there was a copper age between the age of stone and that of bronze, and as no copper cult is found among the prehistoric races of Europe it might well be that in those early times the Mound Builders, having observed the properties of this metal, invented bronze, and introduced it as a thing completed to the dwellers of the Eastern hemisphere.

This theory requires no greater strain upon intelligence than the hypothesis of the archaeologists, who would have us believe that, with a bound, European races proceeded from stone to bronze. Bronze is composed of copper and tin, and it is necessary to believe that a knowledge of one of these metals antedated the invention of bronze, yet no utensil or implement of copper or tin is found among the early peoples of Europe. If they are found in the tombs of the American Mound Builders it is surely a reasonable hypothesis that these people perfected the invention of bronze while the Europeans were mere bearers and users of stone.

This same ingenious delver into the almost impenetrable past finds so strong a resemblance between the mounds and cult of the Mound Builders and the pyramids of Egypt and the habits of the Egyptians, that he does not hesitate to declare a close affinity between the two peoples, giving the advantage of age to the American branch.

After the Mound Builders history tells us that the Indians became the possessors of these regions, and, as the abundant supply of water and the heavy mast of the dense forests attracted game of innumerable kinds in unusually large numbers to the broad plateau behind the high bluffs, these children of the forest used this country more as a hunting ground than for permanent homes. Indeed, the fame of this particular locality as the home of the bear, the deer, the buffalo and many other animals that offer keenest delight to the hunter, had spread afar. The great river offered an easy means of access, and in consequence, many tribes sought these bluffs for the love of the chase, but finding another on like errand bent, turned their rude weapons, not upon the animals which they came to seek, but against their red foes. Encounters of this kind were of such frequent occurrence in those early days that no particular nation could afford to assume absolute possession. These rugged battles, where heroic deeds were done on either side, eventually became, through story and song, identified with the land itself. Other and far away tribes heard of the bloody fights, of the acts of bravery upon the bluffs of the Mississippi. They were magnified in the legends until they appeared to be deeds of super-



"A MAMMOTH OF MODERN TIMES LEAPS THE RIVER."

natural beings, and the belief rapidly gained ground that these regions were infested by a race of giants, against whom none might hope to prevail. How many hundreds of years ago did these impressions obtain not even legend narrates, but it was during an epoch before the country received its name of Chickasaw. This name, according to Mr. J. P. Young's admirable sketch, entitled "The Story of Memphis," was given to the bluffs only after the last of the giants had taken flight.

"Indian legend," says Mr. Young, "gives to the site of Memphis a fantastic interest in its narrative of events occuring here perhaps one thousand years ago. The Choctaw legend relates that many centuries past the Choctaws and Chickasaws, led by the two brothers Chocta and Chicksa came from the far West. On crossing the Mississippi they found the country, occupied by the Nahonla, giants, who were very fair and had come from the East. There was also a race of giants here who were cannibals and who kept the mammoths herded and used them to break down the forests, thus causing the prairies. At last all the cannibals and their gigantic mammoths perished, except one of the latter, which lived near the Tombigbee river. The Great Spirit attempted to destroy him with lightning, but he foiled the bolts by receiving them on his head. Finally being pressed by the Great Spirit, he fled to Socto-thou-fah, 'Steep Bluffs' (now Memphis), cleared the river at a bound and hied him away to the Rocky mountains."

It is interesting to add to this fantastic tale a fact of modern times. At the spot upon the high bluffs where the great mammoth is said to have made his marvelous leap, a mammoth of a different kind spans the river, not, with a single bound—but in three graceful springs by which the great Memphis railway bridge unites the shores of Tennessee with those of Arkansas.

When the Nahonla and giant cannibals had perished the bluffs passed under the dominion of the followers of Chicksa, while the children of Chocta were forced further South and East. The Chickasaws found it no easy task to hold this country. Warriors from many and widely separated tribes, time and again, invaded the territory, both in pursuit of game and with the desire to attain the more honorable renown that follows upon feats of arms between man and man.

Continual warfare breeds hardy children. The tribe of Chickasaws was by no means an exception. Its warriors became famous for bravery, a characteristic which distinguished them many years later when they boldly gave battle to the white man, and with their rude weapons won victories over troops equipped with war implements of European manufacture.

This was the race of people the white man found upon the Chickasaw bluffs when he brought his shining steel blades and his noisy guns to crash in battle among the still mountains and sleeping valleys of the "silent continent."

II—THE COMING OF THE WHITE MAN.

It was upon a bright May morning in 1541 that Hernando De Soto and his adventurous band marched out of the dense forest to the East, and saw with rapture the broad river flowing at the foot of the yellow bluffs, in Shelby County, near the spot where Jackson Mound Park now stands; for it was from this high bluff that the first white men gazed upon the Mississippi River.

DeSoto had been created Adelantado of Florida, an unknown realm reaching from the Atlantic to the Pacific, and in his capacity of Governor of this region he had authority to raise troops and make explorations. While in Cuba the Spaniard had been told that to the North and the far West of his unexplored territory "Eldorado," or the land of gold, could be found. Greed and avarice, coupled with the love of adventure and the renown incident to discoveries, impelled the Adelantado to set out upon a perilous journey through the trackless forests of the Southern States. He disembarked a force of men and horses, splendidly equipped, at Tampa, Fla., in 1539, and marched straight away into the wilderness, thus commencing those hazardous wanderings that were to end in the greatest of his discoveries, and the one that has more surely than any other sent his name "echoing down the corridors of time."

After months of weary marching, and numerous fierce encounters with the painted savages, DeSoto entered East Tennessee, where the imprudence of his men brought on a conflict with the natives, in which eleven of the Spaniards were slain and several of the horses killed. This loss was deemed so serious by the men as to temporarily dishearten them. DeSoto, disguised as a common soldier, mingled with the troops and learned that a mutinous spirit was prevalent. The sturdy old warrior, though, was not dismayed. On the contrary, instead of directing his course Southward, he plunged more persistently into the forests to the Northwest, but inclining again to the Southwest, he eventually reached the country of the Chickasaws.

"His pathway," says Mr. Young, "was literally carved through myriads of brave defenders of the soil, who, undeterred by his deadly guns and shining steel armor, interposed their brave breasts and rude stone weapons to his onsets, and were cut down by thousands."

All of which is historically correct as regards DeSoto's march until he paused upon the banks of the Mississippi. Here his appearance took the Chickasaws—under the immediate leadership of another Chicksa—by surprise, and the natives looked upon the strangers in their armor as objects to excite admiration rather than hostility. DeSoto had been dearly taught to appreciate the former and apprehend the latter sentiment when entertained by the Indians. He rapidly and joyfully accepted the overtures of friendship held out by Chicksa, and in order to cement the bond of peace the proud and hardy soldier bowed his head to the Chickasaw chieftain by visiting Chicksa in his village, and asking permission to linger on the bluffs long enough to build the pirogues necessary for crossing the great river.

Chicksa gave his consent to the Adelantado's request, and then for the first time the axe of the European sank into the hearts of the lofty timber that crowned the Chickasaw bluffs. One after another great trees came crashing to the ground, and while the Spaniards worked the Chickasaws gathered about, amazed at the dexterity and cunning that could fell a lordly monarch of the forest and so easily shape it into vessels to swim the waters.

DeSoto and his men remained twenty-eight days, occupied in the work of boat building, and thus he became the founder of the first white man's settlement in Tennessee, at a period when no part of the present United States had been explored for more than a limited distance from the coast.

It would appear that the Spaniards and the Chickasaw Indians fraternized, dwelling harmoniously together and conceiving mutual admiration: for DeSoto's men in after years often spoke of the noble Indians of the Chickasaw bluffs, and among the natives these white men were made worthy of camp fire legend, not only until other white men came to mar good impressions, but afterwards, down to the time when the Chickasaws were removed by the Government to the Indian Territory.

After the departure of DeSoto the Chickasaws lived undisturbed by white invaders for the period of one hundred and thirty-one years, when, in 1679, their bluffs were visited by two distinguished personages, Marquette, the Jesuit priest, and Joliet, the Quebec trader. These men brought with them the means by which the Indians were ultimately subdued; for where instruments of war met with ignoble failure, those of trade and the influence of religion, as taught by the Spanish and French fathers, prevailed against the liberty-loving natures of the red children of the forest. Once again, in 1681, Marquette stood upon the Chickasaw bluffs, when he marked them as being an admirable place to locate a mission; but the gentle priest was not to carry into execution this work of church and state, for France, under whose dominion these unexplored realms, now termed Louisiana, had passed, began to appreciate the territory, and Robert, Chevelier de la Salle, had been made Governor.

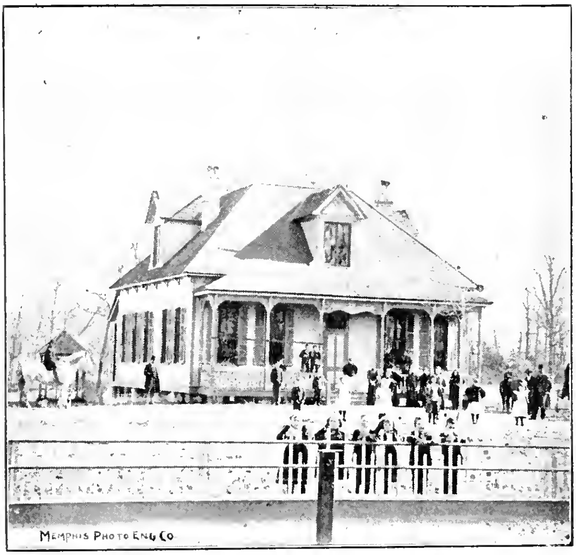
Sieur de la Salle was the wisest, most energetic and most vigorous of these French Governors. He knew the Indian nature intimately, comprehending that the red man might be "improved from the face of the earth," but never conquered by force of arms. This great captain and able statesman appeared upon the Illinois territory in 1661, and proceeded to take possession of all the country lying west of the Alleghanies in the name of France. He at once proceeded down the Mississippi as far as Randolph, just north of the Shelby County line. There he erected a fort, calling it Prudhomme, the name being that of the officer left in charge.

In February, 1662, La Salle set foot upon the lower bluffs, and came in contact with the Chickasaws of the village of Chicksa, descendants of the same tribe that gave respite to the mail-clad DeSoto. But La Salle did not linger in the neighborhood. He had grand schemes of colonization, and as rapidly as possible he made his way from the Western wilderness back to France, where he secured nearly three hundred colonists for his settlement at Prudhomme. Had he succeeded in safely establishing this colony doubtless others would have sprung up upon the banks of the Mississippi, until the French, like the English in their more Eastern domains, would have driven the Indian from his country by sheer force of numbers. La Salle did not succeed. Contrary winds in the Gulf of Mexico drove his little flotilla beyond the mouth of the Mississippi, and this disaster, slight as it was, brought all of La Salle's magnificent plans to naught. His sailing master, Beaugean by name, was envious of the fame that La Salle had won. He betrayed him shamefully by collecting all the colonists and sailing back to France, leaving La Salle and a few devoted adherents at a point upon the Mexican Gulf where Matagorda, Texas, is now located.

La Salle, although deserted, established a fort at Matagorda, whence, with characteristic energy, he made several ineffectual efforts to reach Prudhomme by overland marches. It was upon one of these that this great Frenchman met his death, expiring at a point about 250 miles in the interior. Thus treachery robbed France of the best opportunity that country ever had for strengthening its hold upon the better portion of the new world, and prevented the adoption of a policy of colonization by peaceful means; substituting in its stead the sword and the cannon, which led the natives (the Chickasaws in particular) to declare war to the knife against every Frenchman who appeared upon the Mississippi.

In 1686, and again in 1700, the Chevalier de Tonti passed the Chickasaw bluffs in search of his friend and patron, La Salle. From 1700 to 1739 there were frequent passages made by the hardy French pioneers in Canada down the Mississippi and past the Chickasaw bluffs, which were, during the early years of 1700, looked upon as a noted stopping place for rest and barter.

The French had established communications, and, everything considered, easy transportation from Quebec, in Canada, to the Gulf of Mexico and the ports upon its coast. The route was by the St. Lawrence to the lakes, through the Fox, Wisconsin and Illinois rivers to the Mississippi. They were in a position to make themselves impregnable in this Western country, but as early as 1720 the French of the lower Mississippi, of Mobile and other Gulf ports, began a system of oppression against the natives who were their immediate Northern neighbors. These Indians were of the Natchez tribe. They had fought gallantly and ferociously against DeSoto nearly two hundred years before, but barter and religion had been at work among them, and they fell an easy victim to the guns of the French colonists. Eventually the Natchez tribe was utterly destroyed, but before it was totally annihilated the gallant Chicka-



"NEAT PUBLIC SCHOOL BUILDINGS FOR THE COUNTY."

saws, learning the distress of their brethren of the South, gave them aid, and finally received the dispersed nation in their own country, affording them shelter and persistently protecting them against the assaults of their enemies.

"These Chickasaws," says one pleasing writer, "were a noble race of red men, first to resist the iron heel of the white race, famed for their bravery and ferocious bearing in war, were yet among the first to make a generous and a lasting peace and cultivate the arts of civilization."

They gave the French, as they had given the Spaniards, more concern than all the nations of red men combined. They were the implacable enemies of France. Maintaining their independence, they greatly weakened and divided the new empire. Communication between the lakes of the North and New Orleans was in constant danger of interruption from these intrepid Indians. From their high bluffs timely warning could be had of bateaux either descending or ascending the river, and with the aid of their bark canoes the Chickasaws were ever ready to shoot out into the Mississippi and cut to pieces all voyageurs. Indeed, the Chickasaws for numbers of years permitted no settlements upon the eastern shores of the river. From the Natchez to the Ohio they claimed dominion, and held it against the French, who had mapped out as belonging to France all this rich and fertile country.

Independent and resolute, the Chickasaws had not hesitated to aid the Natchez, and by reason of this act, and also that communication between the North and the South might be protected from constant menace, the French determined to vent their displeasure upon the Chickasaws. To this end Bienville, then Governor of Louisiana, was instructed to fit out an expedition equal to the undertaking, and to drive the Chickasaws from the territory.

Bienville in many respects was an able Governor. He founded New Orleans and induced many of the young scions of noble French families to flock to his city in the New World. Under his sway, which was of the holiday order, New Orleans attracted that European attention which afterwards caused it to be the center of fashion for the Western Hemisphere. In consequence of this the French of Louisiana look upon Bienville as the greatest of French Governors, but his country did not so regard him. He was finally recalled and died in disgrace.

It was this pink of fashion and gala-day Governor that France sent against the intrepid Chickasaws, and with his characteristic fondness for eclat and pomp Bienville consumed two whole years in making his preparations. His orders were to annihilate the Chickasaws, and that he might the more certainly accomplish the deed Bienville called on the gallant but impetuous Chevalier d'Artaguette, who controlled in the Illinois district.

D'Artaguette received orders to meet Bienville at Fort Prudhomme not later than April 10, 1739. True to his instructions the dashing young Chevalier appeared at Prudhomme six days before the allotted time. He brought with him one hundred and thirty white men and three hundred warriors of the Miamis and the Dakotahs.

In the meantime Bienville left New Orleans, March 4, for Mobile. He had determined to make the overland trip that had proved so perilous to DeSoto; besides, the French had established a depot of ammunition on the Tombigbee, and Bienville desired to visit this depot. He was delayed in the voyage to Mobile an unconscionable time, and he was unable to leave that settlement until the date set for the meeting with D'Artaguette at Prudhomme; yet, when Bieville reached his stores of ammunition on the river, his love for display caused him to lose several more days in holding a grand review of his forces, which numbered some five hundred whites and six hundred natives. A chronicler of the events of those times pauses to speak of this review in the following glowing terms:

"Chivalry upon richly caparisoned steeds, rode with glittering pomp by the side of the quick, earnest step of the broad shouldered grenadier, and the heavy tread of the Swiss Guard. The gaily dressed volunteers of the best blood of France, led by the gallant DeLassier, bearing flying banners with cheering mottoes, worked in gay colors by their lady loves, inspired by martial music, presented an imposing sight."

While Bienville was engaged with the splendor of war's apparel the fiery D'Artaguette chafed in vexation of soul at Prudhomme. Provisions at the fort were growing scarce and D'Artaguette was becoming desperate. His hot French blood could ill brook being cooped up in a fort when he was in the heart of the enemy's country. Moreover, he despised the Indians as warriors, believing his white company, alone, to be more than a match for all the saveges in the forest. Laboring under this delusion D'Artaguette sallied forth in the early days of May, ostensibly to obtain supplies, but in reality with the expectation of engaging the Chickasaws.

Coming unexpectedly upon an obscure village, not many miles from the Southern boundary of the present site of Shelby County, the young Frenchman gave the order to attack; but the seeming peacefulness of the village was the ambuscade of the wily foe. It contained 600 Chickasaw warriors and 40 Englishmen, and ere

D'Artaguette could recover from the surprise his little army was cut to pieces and he and seventeen others were captured.

The victory won the Chickasaws burned their prisoners at the stake, advanced on Prudhomme and demolished the fort. This temporarily secured the Chickasaws from further invasion from the North, and permitted them to prepare for the approaching battle with Bienville's army, which was advancing from the South.

Bienville's march was directed against the village of Ackia. His forces came in sight of the place May 23rd, one month and thirteen days after his appointment with D'Artaguette. At noon Bienville, taking his position upon a hillock, turned over the command of the attacking party to DeNoyon, a famous soldier of those times, with orders to sack the village.

The stronghold of the Chickasaws was a row of strongly built mud cabins on the apex of the hill upon which the village was situated flanked right and left, front and rear, by mud cabins, separated from each other equi-distance some forty paces. The attacking column moved up steadily under cover of mantelets, borne by a company of negro slaves, until they had reached within a few paces of the first row of cabins, when a well-aimed volley fired seemingly from the ground and not exceeding twenty paces in front of them penetrated the make-shift fortifications, killed several of the negroes and caused the living blacks to throw down their mantelets and take to their heels panic stricken. DeNoyen, however, gave orders to press onward. His command valiantly charged the first row of mud cabins, but found them vacated, the Indians occupying them, after discharging their volley, had escaped under cover to the next row, whence they poured a hailstorm of bullets and arrows into the attacking forces. Such was the rain of bullets that De Noyen was forced to shelter his troops behind the first row of cabins, not only unable to advance but in serious jeopardy should he remain or retreat.

Bienville, seeing the dangerous position of his Lieutenant, ordered a feigned attack upon the village from another quarter, instructing De Noyen to fall back beyond gunshot when the natives were engaged in repelling the second onslaught. The maneuver succeeded, and De Noyen withdrew his troops without further loss, but he had left about those mud cabins, shot to death, many of the bravest spirits of the army, among them being the Chevalier De Coutre and De Mortrun, the leader of the Swiss Guards.

Utterly defeated Bienville was compelled to retreat, and he returned to New Orleans furious and chafing. He at once raised a mighty army of 1,200 white men and 2,400 Indians. With this force he returned by way of the French posts in Arkansas and the Mississippi river to the lower Chickasaw Bluff in November of the same year. He had been preceded by a part of his forces in August. This advance guard erected Fort Assumption at the foot of the steeps of Wolf (Margot) river, three-fourths of a league to the right, in the middle days of August, which circumstance is said to have led to the selection of the name Assumption.

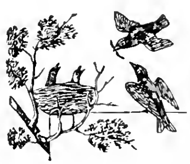
The more reliable authorities locate Fort Assumption on the face of the present bluff, between Jackson Mound and Georgia street, Memphis. The structure which, in all probability, was the first ever erected by white people on the land belonging to Shelby County is described in the diary of a French officer, who accompanied the expedition, as "constructed of piles, three bastions bearing on the plain and two half bastions bearing on the river, which is reached by seven different and wide slopes of 140 feet each. In the center of these slopes have been constructed bakeries and ovens scooped out of the walls of earth."

For a year the French held Fort Assumption, but in 1740 the ranks of the Canadians, who composed a large portion of the garrison, being thinned from death brought about by the deadly malaria, Bienville was forced to evacuate the fort, and thus a second time virtually acknowledge defeat at the hands of the Chickasaws. After the departure of the French the natives tore down Assumption, and again the Chickasaws reigned sovereigns and masters within their ancient territorial domain.

For a period of twenty-two years after 1740 France continued to hold nominal possession of the land of the Chickasaws; but in fact the French were at no time during this period the real masters of this brave race. There were many skirmishes between the two people, but no regular governmental effort was attempted by the rulers of Louisiana to bring the Chickasaws under the yoke. Their chiefs conducted the affairs of the tribe without foreign advice or interference; but foes were pressing upon the Chickasaws from all sides.

When Bienville received orders to reduce the tribe of Chickasaws to submission France contemplated enclosing the English possessions in the New World within the line of communication from Quebec to New Orleans. Such a scheme would have thoroughly established the French to the West of the English colonies, with bands of ferocious savages, easily incited to warfare, occupying the country between. England recognized the growing peril to her possessions, and to defeat it, declared war with France. The Chickasaws hating the French with bitterness, born of the recollection of the many acts of cruelty inflicted by that nation, entered into a treaty of peace with the English, and joined with them in the warfare waged against the settlers from France.

To the credit of the Chickasaw tribe this treaty was never violated. They remained true to the compact from the day on which it was made up to the removal of the nation by the United States. Individuals of the tribe did seek the Englishman's scalp with the same zest displayed in the search for the Frenchman's hair, but as a people the Chickasaws never raised the tomahawk against the English settlements.



III—UNDER THE STARS AND STRIPES.

In 1762 France became convinced that the Chickasaw country was practically beyond its powers of control. Accordingly, in November of that year, this region was ceded to Spain. Two months of this nominal ownership satisfied the haughty Don, and we find on February 16, 1763, by treaty between Great Britain, France and Spain, all the country East of the Mississippi River, excepting the environments of New Orleans, ceded to the English. It was thus that the land of Shelby County first came nominally under the dominion of the Anglo-Saxons, who have, except for a short period during the Spanish conquest, retained the country to the present day.

The English ownership of the Chickasaw country continued from 1763 to 1782, when, under the treaty of peace between the United States and Great Britain, all this country including the lower bluff was vested in the United States. Three years later the State of Georgia also ceded to the United States all its rights acquired from Great Britain in the same territory.

While the English were in possession affairs of great moment engaged their attention elsewhere, and, in consequence, colonization of the Chickasaw territory was permitted to languish. The Indians continued the sole occupants of the land. Not a structure of any kind erected by the hands of white men remained in the vicinity of the high bluff. The land was as if white feet had never trodden it and the eyes of white men had never rested upon it. Occasionally voyageurs making a passage of the river would rest at the foot of the bluffs and tell over with the Indian inhabitants the stormy times in which the country was involved under the rule of France, but to all intents and purposes this Western country of the Chickasaws continued the absolute possession of the red man.

During this period the war of the American Revolution occurred. Tennessee was not then a State, but a sturdy race of pioneers, owing allegiance to the colony of North Carolina, had taken possession of the Western sides of the Alleghanies, and were even scattered throughout the rich regions stretching to the Cumberland. These, the forefathers of the people of Tennessee, wrought for themselves in this heroic struggle a history never to be forgotten by posterity; but the scene of this war was too distant to disturb the Chickasaws on the bank of the great river.

Once only, from 1762 to 1795, was their country invaded. The foe on this occasion was not of the Caucasian race. The Watauga settlement at the Western base of the Alleghanies had sent out a party to the Cumberland regions and there established another community, which was dreadfully harrassed by the Creek Indians of the vicinity. The Cumberland settlement induced the Cherokees of North Alabama to wage war on the Creeks. In the course of a few years the latter were massacred almost to a man. The Cherokees emboldened by continued success made an incursion into the Chickasaw country about the year 1770, but were repulsed with terribie slaughter.

In 1781, during the war between Spain and France, the Spaniards made vast conquests in the Florida possessions, and gradually working their way up the Mississippi assumed control of the river and the immediate territory. The Chickasaw country was not reached until 1795, when Governor Gayoso ascended the stream as far as the lower bluffs, and established a fort in the Arkansas lands, opposite the mouth of Wolf river, which he called Hopefield. Seeing that the Chickasaws were inclined to receive him kindly, Gayoso crossed the river in the same year and built Fort San Fernando De Barancos. Upon the establishment of this post Gayoso claimed the country to be once more under the dominion of Spain.

Gayoso's stay at Fort Ferdinand was brief. The United States had by this time become alive to the value of the Western territory, and on July 20, 1797, two years after Gayoso constructed his Spanish fort, Captain Isaac Guion of the 3rd United States Regiment of Infantry put in an appearance at the head of his company. Gayoso at once abandoned Fort Ferdinand, which Captain Guion dismantled and upon its site erected Fort Adams.

Prior to the coming of Captain Guion the Chickasaws apprehended no danger of white invasion from the East, but it was from this quarter that an irresistible tide of settlers was soon to sweep the red men from the lands of their ancestors, across the Mississippi, ever to the West, to find shelter and refuge only in the seclusion of solitude.

As early as 1748 a party of white hunters passed over the Appalachian range into the rich country to the West. In 1761 others penetrated as far as Carter's Valley, and Daniel Boone, the heroic pioneer of Kentucky, with Sam Calloway, made explorations, in 1764, reaching to the Tennessee river. Provincial governments had been issuing land grants and land warrants, and their owners were in no mood to be balked of what they fancied were their rights simply because countries over the sea saw fit to restrict colonization by territorial limitations. The newcomers tumbled over the mountains with incalculable rapidity. They spread out to the Cumberland, crossed the river and established themselves upon the Tennessee. Cabins came up like fungi, and the thirst for land and wandering out, which has made the history of the Anglo-Saxon race the history of colonization, gave a steady, unwavering impulse to the inflow.

"The Indians," says Phelan's History of Tennessee, "became jealous, full of revengeful fear and bitterly exasperated. Each additional encroachment they regarded as an injury, each hunting party as an insult. From the Miami to the Tennessee they were aroused to a sense of the danger which was impending. As usual, the red man was brought face to face with the white man, each filled with relentless determination, on each recognizing in the other the impossible element of co-existence. As usual, the former after a brave and despairing contest and superhuman desperation, yielded stubbornly but surely to the fate which to him meant passing away from the face of the earth."

Thus fared it with the Indians between the Alleghanies and the Tennessee, and thus to a less degree was to be the fate of the gallant Chickasaws, but not yet had their day of extinction arrived. For some inexplicable cause the tide of immigration paused upon the banks of the Tennessee, Captain Guion, as late as 1797, reporting only two white men residing among the Chickasaws. These men were Kenneth Ferguson, a Scotchman, and William Mizell, a native of North Carolina.

The beginning of the Nineteenth Century found the land within the present boundaries of Shelby still a virgin forest with the Indians in full possession, though North Carolina had ceded the territory in 1784 to the United States, and in 1785 the State of Franklin was formed, with a population of 77,262, and school-houses and churches were flourishing in every portion of the State, save only in this Southwestern extremity. Franklin existed until 1794, when the country again became a territory, but two years afterwards the State of Tennessee arose upon the destroyed realm of Franklin and has since been counted as one of the lovliest sisters in the union of States. It is the one-hundredth anniversary of this event that has caused the great Exposition at Nashville.

Memphis was not then in existence, nor was the Government of Shelby County dreamed of. The savages had possession of the land, and save for a few soldiers of the Spanish blood stationed at Fort Ferdinand, no white men inhabited the County that has erected the pyramid as a token of its advancement. One hundred years ago Captain Guion was in the act of driving out Governor Gayoso, and taking formal possession of the Chickasaw bluffs in the name of the United States.

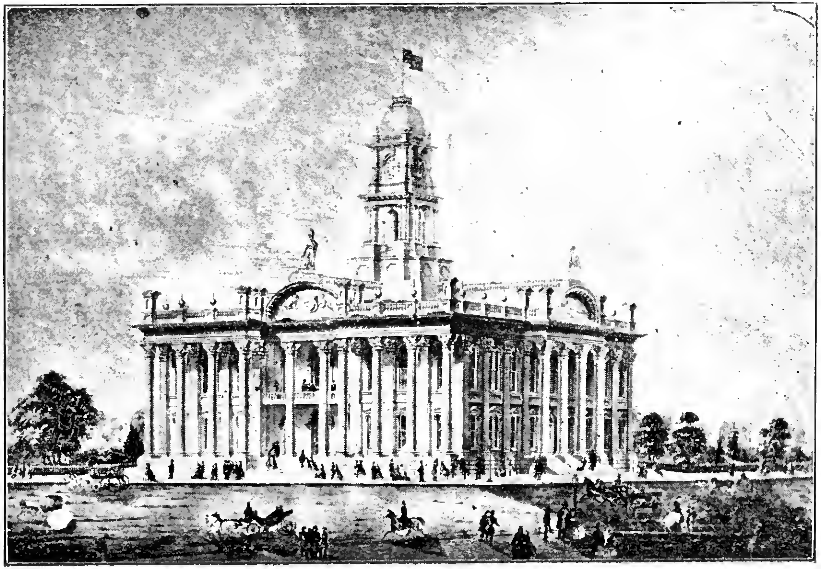
General Pike succeeded Captain Guion in occupying Fort Adams, and several years later General Wilkinson took command. He at once destroyed Fort Adams and built Fort Pickering, the local designation of Fort Pickering remaining to this day, having been kept alive by various attempts to make it a rival of Memphis.

By a strange coincidence the struggles of Spain, France and England for the Chickasaw country find a parallel in the contest waged over the territorial limits of the Shelby County region. In March 1819 James Brown, a surveyor, extended the Southern boundary line of Tennessee, beginning at the Northwest corner of Alabama. The line struck the Mississippi about four miles below Fort Pickering. A few months later General James Winchester laid off the official line; but in 1832, when Shelby County was a growing community, the Indian Chiefs of North Mississippi declared the Winchester line a false one, and Mississippi put in a claim for the County, which held the thriving town of Memphis. To settle the dispute an engineer was appointed to take new observations, when it was discovered that the 35th degree of north latitude was about four miles further south than the Winchester line. This settled the disputed question in a manner altogether unexpected by those who had raised it, and materially added to the territory of Shelby County.

Georgia had likewise laid claim to this country, but, as we have seen, was compelled to cede its fancied rights to the United States; thus the old and well-established claim of North Carolina prevailed, subject to the Indian titles, which were extinguished by the Jackson purchase in 1818, and it is through these North Carolina grants that the lands of Shelby are now held.

It was not until 1819 that John Overton, Andrew Jackson and James Winchester, the owners of the John Rice grant which North Carolina issued in 1780, determined to lay off the town of Memphis. The County of Shelby was then a virgin wilderness. The foundations of both Memphis and Shelby County were laid under the shadows and around the roots of forest trees. An old block house stood in Fort Pickering and a few straggling shanties clustered around a primitive, public warehouse, sometimes called Young's warehouse, but when the surveyors began marking off the city the County became active and we find it organized May 1, 1820. This important step was taken in the house of William Lawrence, where the County Court met until a Courthouse was built.

The first magistrates were William Irvine, Chairman; Jacob Tipton, Andrew B. Carr, Marcus B. Winchester, Thomas D. Carr and Benjamin Willis, Jr.; Samuel R. Brown was sheriff; Thomas Taylor, register; Alexander Ferguson, ranger; William A. Davis, trustee; Gideon Carr, coroner; John P. Perkins, solicitor; William Bettis and William Dean, constables. The first frame building was built for Benjamin Fooy by Zaccheus Joiner, and was occupied by old Isaac Rawlings, who resented the establishment of the County because prior to this event he had been recognized as the soul conservator of peace in the community; though, at the time when he administered his rough and ready justice, there was no legally authorized peace officer in the Chickasaw country.



COURTHOUSE CONTEMPLATED IN 1861.

As the history of this section is identified with the bluffs, so the history of Shelby County becomes one with that of the fair city crowning these steeps. Whatever wealth the County produces is poured into the lap of the city, and if Memphis has become Queen of the Mississippi Valley, Shelby County has advanced, *pari pasu*, and is the banner county of the State. When the town of Memphis was laid out there were only one hundred people in the County proper. From 1820 to 1830 the new town gave little evidence of progress, but the County affiairs had begun to flourish by reason of the labors of the tillers of the soil.

In 1824 the County seat was removed to Raleigh, a village twelve miles from Memphis and famous for its mineral waters. During the same year La Fayette visited Shelby County, bringing with him Frances Wright, who afterwards married Sieur D'Arusement.

Frances Wright was a remakable woman in her day. Of the best blood of Scotland, companion to the nobility of Europe, she yet devoted her life to the cause of women and to the betterment of the condition of the black slaves of America—a very unusual attitude for a woman to assume in 1824. Consequently, when Frances Wright founded an agricultural school for negroes at Nashoba, in Shelby County, her efforts were ridiculed as being foolish and extravagant. It is needless to say that the station at Nashoba was not successful, still, in a manner, her enterprise bore fruit, for this philanthropical woman, having given an education to a number of slaves, set them free. They migrated to Hayti, and, it is said, some of them became factors in the growth and development of that island. Up to a year ago Nashoba, still being the unincumbered possession of Frances Wright's daughter, was devoted to the original purpose of the wise and noble woman, whose only fault seems to have been that she was in advance of her age.

Churches and newspapers appeared in Memphis in 1827, and a year or so thereafter, the town's most formidable rival, Randolph, some forty miles to the North, was so thoroughly eclipsed that the merchants of the latter place moved their stores to the city on the bluff. From 1830 to 1840 no rapid strides were made by the city, but the County began to build up a reputation for the cultivation of cotton that was eventually to fill the city's ports with craft of every description. In 1840 the true prosperity of Shelby County commenced to assert itself. During the next decade the growth of population rivaled the wonders of Cadmus, increasing in the city alone from 1,796 to 8,841. The Memphis & Charleston Railroad was chartered and constructed to LaGrange. Stage lines and mail routes were established to all Eastern points. The military road to Little Rock was built. A theatre was erected in Memphis, and the Memphis Appeal was founded. Sixty thousand bales of cotton were shipped from the county by water, and almost any day at least one hundred flat boats could be counted in the harbor. A telegraph line was constructed to New Orleans in 1845, and the following year the Mississippi & Tennessee Railroad was chartered. Between 1845 and 1850 villages were established in the County. Among others the present town of Germantown was settled.

Upon the breaking out of hostilities with Mexico in 1846 Shelby County sent three companies to the front, while several others were raised and held in readiness should they be needed.

From 1850 to 1860 was a marvellous period for the city, which grew with enormous strides, thereby directly benefiting the County. During this period planting had become fashionable as well as profitable, and the lands of the County were held in large tracts by planters who used slave labor. These lands were valuable in the extreme, bringing in large revenues to both the County and to the owners, but the conditions were not of a progressive nature, because the pursuit of agriculture was virtually in the hands of the black slaves, the planters themselves living with princely extravagance, but paying little attention to the public necessities of the rural districts. In the city, however, the vigor and enterprise that was lacking in the country took root and flourished like the green bay tree. The census of 1860 showed a population of 22,643, an increase of over 100 per cent. in ten years. The receipts of cotton had become 398,000 bales, valued at $18,000,000, while the total business of the year was carefully estimated at $53,481,650, a vast trade to have grown out of a village in the wilderness established forty years before.

Prosperity fled from Shelby County during the next decade, as from every other Southern locality. The civil war brought to a halt the wonderful development, which, had it been permitted to continue, would have attracted to this section of the country the wondering admiration of the world. But Tennessee, after pronouncing against secession in February, 1861, decided on June 8, 1861, to secede from the Union by a vote of 108,418 to 53,336. The vote of the city of Memphis was 5,608 against 5, and in the rural districts of the County there were hardly five other votes cast against the Southern Confederacy. With characteristic energy the County sent thirty-seven military companies to the front. With the departure of these troops both city and County were left defenseless, and in June of 1862 Memphis was captured by a Federal fleet, after a sharp encounter with the Confederates on the river in front of the bluffs. In 1864 General Forrest recaptured the town for the Confederates, but his expedition was in the nature of a raid, and this "wizard of the saddle" had struck his blow and departed ere the Federals were alive to what had occurred.

The close of the war left Shelby County prostrate. The plantations lying idle for years had grown up in bushes. The people had no money and no credit; no live stock, no agricultural implements, no labor that could be trusted. All matters of trade were directed by the United States Treasury agents; military rule dominated everything. The city was filled with insolent negro troops, who overran the county, creating dissatisfaction and intolerable impudence among such of the former slaves as continued to follow agriculture. The reins of government were forcibly taken from the owners of the soil, and the political machinery was intrusted to worthless ignorance and baser corruption.

"To have been a Confederate deprived the individual of all voice in public affairs," says Mr. Young, himself a soldier in the service of the South; "if a lawyer, he could not practice in the courts, and to do any public act whatever he must needs first take the 'iron-clad oath,' in which he was required to swear that he had 'never aided nor abetted the rebellion.' "

Under these conditions, when the whole intelligent population was disfranchised, corruption was the rule and not the exception, and there is little wonder that the Commissioners who sat in the seats of the County Magistrates, put there by the "Carpet Bagger" and the "Ragtail," plunged the county headlong into a sea of debt. But patience was at length exhausted, and one night in May the ex-Confederates of the County and city rose in their righteous wrath, attacked the riotous negro troops and their worthless supporters, the "carpet baggers," drove them from the city, administering a rebuke the lesson of which has been felt to the present day.

After this prospects became brighter, the plantation negroes became more obedient and less insolent, and both agriculture and trade revived. The latent energy of the people sprang into action and a steady advancement set in. In 1873 the yellow fever plague visited Memphis, but did not over-run the County. Again in 1878-9 this yellow spectre stalked through the land. On these latter occasions not even the purer country localities were safe from its deadly attack. These were fearful blows for both city and County. All business ceased; all life seemed gone from the ill-fated town, and the County was helpless to give assistance. Property values dropped to almost nothing, and it was with difficulty that thousands of people could obtain the merest necessities of life.

The people realized the ruin that was before them, and it was through this clear conception of the situation that the dawn of a better and brighter prosperity flashed its rosy light upon Shelby County. Sanitary reforms were put into operation by the city, and through these the County was protected. Yellow fever had never been indigenous. It had come to the city through commerce and travel. Once the spirit of health protection was at work in a manner to inspire confidence in the people, again their indomitable civic courage set them to advancing and developing the rich resources of the County.

Under this new impetus the wonders of the decade of 1840 to 1850 were rivaled and surpassed. Railroads sought the County from every quarter until ten great lines distribute its products and in return pours those of the world into her lap. Public schools were dotted about in every district; handsome iron bridges gave place to wooden ones, asylums for the poor and insane were erected, dirt roads were converted into lasting and superb turnpikes, and every blessing that can flow from a wise expenditure of an ever increasing wealth was brought home to Shelby County, until today it claims the proud distinction of being first in progress and civilization among the counties of the entire South. Its future is assured.

The manufacturer seeks it as being the Northern center of the great cotton belt; the very heart of the most valuable timber lands in existence, and within easy distance of the coal and iron fields of Alabama and Tennessee. It is located in the middle of a larger extent of arable land, unbroken by desert, or mountain range, than can be found in either hemisphere; it is blessed with a climate soft and equable as that beneath which the vine and the orange mature their purple and golden fruits; it possesses an alluvial soil whose exhaustless wealth no greed of industry nor ignorance of husbandry can impair, and as these natural advantages are controlled and directed by a progressive, intelligent and thoroughly educated people, the County is in the enjoyment of a triumphant march beneath the streaming banners of wealth, prosperity and civilization.

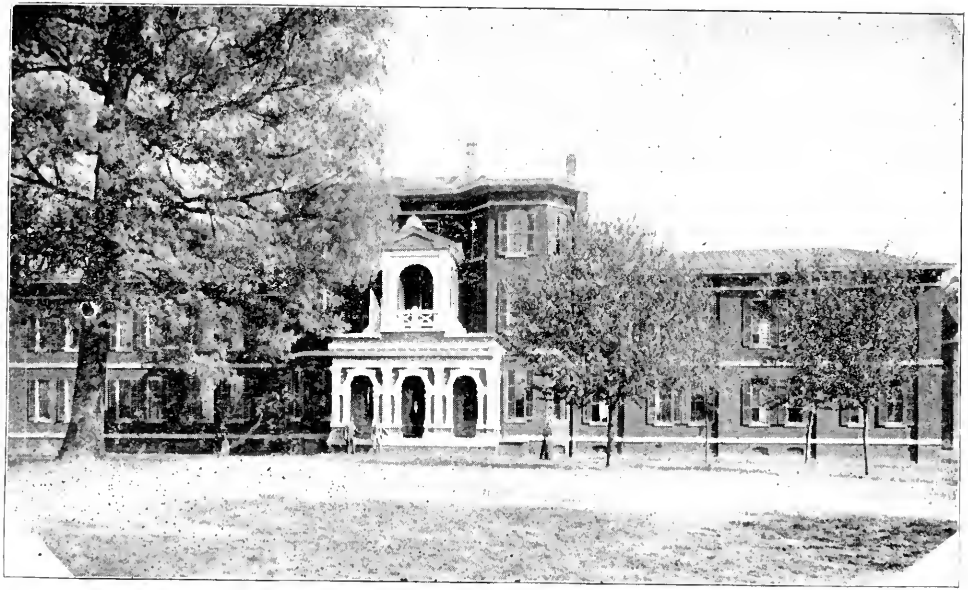
Shelby County.

Its Resources and Developments.

BIRD'S EYE VIEW.

Shelby is the richest county in the State of Tennessee. It has an area of 720 square miles, and the number of acres returned for taxation, exclusive of the town lots, is 442,534. There are 125,000 acres in valuable timber. The total tax valuation of the County is $36,741,268. The tax rate for State and County last year was 85 cents on the $100. Shelby County returns for taxation over one-sixth of all the taxable property of the State, and thus pays one-sixth of a State's expenses where there are ninety-six counties. The total population of the County is 140,825.

In its geology Shelby County shows at the lowest point outside the bottoms, the LaGrange sands, in which occur beds of lignite, as at Raleigh, on the banks of Wolf river. Above this is the gravel and sand of the Orange drift, which in turn is covered by the Bluff loam or loess, upon which much of the best soil of Shelby rests. To these must be added the alluvium of the bottoms, which is formed by existing agencies. The general surface is that of a gently undulating plain interspersed with two rivers, some ten creeks and any number of water courses, miscalled bayous. The rivers are navigable for vessels used in commerce for a considerable distance into the northern and central portion of the County, and their waters are invaluable as a highway for the millions of feet of lumber that, in the shape of rafts, is floated to the mills located chiefly near the confluence of these streams with the Mississippi.



PHOTOGRAPH BY BINGHAM.

"WHERE THE POOR ARE LODGED IN A PALACE."

There is a goodly amount of alluvial soil along the creek bottoms and the rivers, especially that part facing the Mississippi river in the northwestern quarter of the County. This alluvial soil, composed of vegetable mould and sand, is as rich as any in the world.

So great is the amount of mineral plant food held in solution by the waters of the Mississippi that it may be doubted if any lands overflowed by this stream once in ten years, can ever be exhausted. The hills, or rolling lands, are usually of a clay loam, resting on a reddish-yellow brick clay. When first cleared of the forests they produced large crops for half a life-time, and had they been rationally treated would not then have become less valuable in their yield. But for the most part these lands were dreadfully butchered by the worst possible system of exhaustive slave labor. For all this an intelligent method of husbandry soon restores them to their pristine vigor. This fact has been fully demonstrated in late years, where the lands of the County, escaping from the control of the holders of large tracts, have found owners in the small farmers. These latter bring to bear upon the cultivation of their small farms that personal interest and personal attention that assures the wisest husbandry, which never fails upon this clay loam to recuperate the soil and reward the farmer.

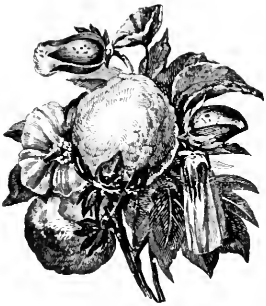
Year by year, especially since the disastrous years of 1878-9, some one or more of the great plantations of Shelby County have found themselves upon the market. Owners of these find them unprofitable; for the system of share work, with that of rent and supplies to the negro laborer, who is neither legally, nor, as he conceives, morally responsible for a contract, results only in empty pockets for both landlord and tenant, to say nothing of the distressing drain upon the land. These conditions, however, prove to the advantage of the home-seeker. By reason of them he can secure lands at a low price, when on account of the public improvements throughout the County they should be very dear.

Nor are any of these farms worn out like the New England soil, for by merely plowing under green crops of rye, peas or clover, the land recuperates wonderfully. Indeed, the subsoils seem loaded with inert plant food, readily rendered digestible for any of the staple crops.

It is difficult in the extreme to average the yield per acre, as it depends mainly upon whether or not the owner of the land is also the farmer thereof. Under the slipshod practice upon the large plantations five hundred pounds of seed cotton per acre is deemed a good harvest. Wheat, under the same system, produces from ten to twelve bushels, and corn from fifteen to thirty-five bushels, according to the intelligence and disposition to work displayed by the negro. In the alluvial lands of the creek and river bottoms the yield is satisfactory to the most sanguine. Farms along Wolf and Hatchie rivers, Big Creek and the Mississippi river, are wonderfully productive, often yielding from fifteen hundred to seventeen hundred pounds of seed cotton to the acre.

Where the farmer is also the owner, even upon the long-used lands of the old plantations, the fields are robed in white and excellent crops of cotton and corn are produced. Fortunately for Shelby the number of small farms is rapidly increasing. This operates in a two-fold way to the benefit of the County. First, it sets at rest and forever buries the idea of equality between the negro and the white farm laborers—an idea that has done much to prevent immigration to the Southern country. Second, it assures the wisest and most economical system of farming—that which is instigated by the love of the owner for his farm home.

KING COTTON.



For years Shelby County was the greatest cotton producing county in the land. Of recent years, owing to the diversified crops put in by the farmers to meet the demands of the large and growing city of Memphis, the yield of cotton has not been so large, and Shelby has willingly and to its advantage taken the third place as a cotton county, while Washington County, Mississippi, has advanced to the front. The cotton of Shelby County, though, is regarded as being of a higher class grade than that of the fertile fields of the Mississippi river bottom. It is cleaner, purer; perhaps the staple, as a rule, is a trifle longer, and it commands, generally, a better price.

As early as 1845, Col. John Pope, a pioneer of Shelby, the winner of the Crystal Palace prize for the best bale of cotton, and Chairman of the Committee on Agriculture of the first Internal Improvement Convention that met in Memphis in that year, submitted a luminous and elaborate report on the conditions of agriculture. Cotton planting received especial attention in this report, and the words of Colonel Pope upon the subject then have been taken up in these latter years and urged with vehemence upon the planter.

"Diversify labor by a more extensive growth of provisions, and the introduction of manufacturing establishments," was the advice of this distinguished agriculturist in 1845.

A half century later the cotton conventions of the Southern cities had not improved on this advice, but on the contrary scattered it broadcast throughout the country. Shelby has been gradually adopting the suggestion that was urged upon the country fifty-two years ago. The result is that the County not only keeps close to the front as a cotton producer, but is found also well up in the front ranks in all other staple crops that flourish in a warm and genial soil.

In dealing with the cotton interests of Shelby County they cannot be separated from those of the City of Memphis, as the trade of the City enriches the County, and the products of the latter help to swell the volume of business done by the former.

Shelby County devotes about 100,000 acres to the growth of cotton, and upon these acres the number of bales raised and reported have varied, since 1879, between 35,774 bales to 50,000—46,388 bales being accredited to the County as last year's yield. Satisfactory as this is for the County's supply, the City shows even more marvelous figures where cotton is concerned.

The official annual statement of the Memphis Merchants' Exchange says:

Cotton sales in this market the present season will realize close to $20,000,000. Sales made to this date have been 430,000 bales, for which $15,000,000 has been realized.

In years past the value of cotton sold here has varied between $16,124,000 and $40,000,000. The year of lowest volume was 1894-95, which was also the season of the lowest average values for over fifty years. The average value of a bale of cotton in this market last year was over $40.50 per bale, and this year promises to average around $37.00.

The sources from which cotton seeks this market, the current season, shows the following distribution: From west of the Mississippi river, 180,000 bales, and from the east of the same, 380,000 bales. This shows an increase over the preceding season of 54,000 bales from the west and 85,000 bales from the east side of the Mississippi river. From the southward a total of over 250,000 has been brought, and from the east and northeast 116,000 bales. This gives an increase of the latter of 30,000 bales, and from the south of 50,000. The total increase of 180,000 bales over the previous year is therefore quite evenly distributed, and it shows that the yield was generally better than the year previous over the entire district.

Of thirty-two crops of cotton grown between 1864 and 1897, 14,620,000 bales have been sold in the Memphis market, realizing a total of $825,000,000, or an annual average of 456,210 bales, valued at $25,750,000.

Major George B. Fleece, Chairman of the Shelby County Centennial Committee, in connection with this subject, says:

If from the list of exports the cotton produced in the Southern States were withdrawn, the balance of trade against the United States would amount to more than two hundred and fifty million dollars, annually payable in gold To provide for such a contingency it would require a reorganization of the existing system of national finance, an abandonment of the gold basis, or national repudiation and bankruptcy. It is a fact admitted by the bankers of the world that the cotton crop prevented a world-wide disaster, following the Barring Bros. failure in 1890. And but recently, in the struggle of the Government to maintain its national credit, the moving crop of cotton was the main dependence for replenishment of its almost exhausted supply of gold. Thus it is a fact, that the Memphis cotton district, producing annually about one-eighth of the total crop of the United States, contributes more than any equal territory in the Union, to the financial credit and stability of the nation. I have no means of estimating accurately the gross value of the annual cotton crop of the United States, crude and manufactured, but it is a pleasing speculation, reasonably possible, that the million bales of the Memphis district, if manufactured at home, would sell for at least the price per pound of cheap gingham, or fifty cents, amounting thus to a total of $200,000,000 per annum for the Memphis crop.

Thus, is cotton truly a king, and the monarch finds a favored abiding place in Shelby County. Through the fleecy staple the nation's treasury is glutted and the nation's people clothed, and in this royal work Shelby County plays no insignificant part, for through its porous earth the great "Inland Sea" diffuses itself; "possessing in the depths of its mysterious soil an ever renewed and renewing principle, which develops itself beneath the hand of man into the wonderful sun-plant, that puts on today its coronal of white flowers, which in a single night, as if touched by a magician's wand, turns to a beautiful lilac." These are the first full garments of the royal cotton, but later when the coronal of flowers has given place to the teeming boll, and these in turn, matured under the heat of the sun, burst their parting lobes, then the King is seen robed in the silken staple, fleecy and snow-white, monarch of a thousand fields and feeder of a million looms.

PHOTOGRAPH BY BINGHAM.

"AN INSANE ASYLUM FOR THE COUNTY'S USE."

COTTON SEED.

What to do with the cottonseed was a question which, in time gone by, gave considerable trouble to the cotton planters. Now, what can *not* be done with it is the question. This by-product of cotton almost rivals the staple itself in the wealth it brings to a cotton-producing country. Shelby County's 46,000 bales of cotton means not only from 6 cents to 8 cents a pound for the cotton, but, also, from seven dollars to eight dollars per ton for 25,300 tons of cottonseed. This amount of cottonseed at this price represents $162,400.00, which is virtually a gift that cotton makes to its producers.

Memphis, during the year 1896, received 112,932 tons, against 76,694 tons in 1895. Prices paid last year by the mills began at $7.00 per ton for wagon and railway, and $6.00 for river seed. These figures continued until the middle of November when $8.00 was paid for wagon and railway, and $7.00 for the river seed. The latter prices have since prevailed.

There is about 300 pounds of oil in a ton of seed. The residue is either meal or hulls. The latter covers about half of the entire bulk. The oil is valued at about 26½ cents per gallon. Prime cottonseed meal has varied from $14.00 to $16.50 per ton. These prices show the marvelous value of the cottonseed, and after all the farmer can find a merit in the hulls which, to him, is worth more than either oil or meal. These hulls are regarded as being the most successful and certain fertilizer that can be distributed upon wornout land, and are used almost exclusively in this County, though, as a rule, the Shelby County farmer puts his confidence in the natural richness of the soil and is seldom, almost never, disappointed. It would be better for his interest, however, if he would use the cottonseed hulls freely, because they give back to the land that vigor and strength which matured the cotton.

GRASSES OF SHELBY COUNTY.

The grasses of Shelby are rapidly adding more wealth to the County's resources. Besides, the exquisite green pastures, that are found here and there amid the brown fields in autumn and winter, are most pleasing to the sight, conveying at a glance a favorable impression of Shelby County as a home for the farmer. These pastures flash beneath the warm sun of spring and the golden light of the late fall in all the beauties of the emerald. They offer a pleasing variety from the brown and white of the cotton patches and the russet of the corn field They show thrift and enterprise, for the pasture in this countrv means not only that crops of hay have been garnered, but also the presence of those farm animals that forever invite the admiration and the affections of mankind.

Killebrew, writing under the direction of the Bureau of Agriculture in 1874, says of the Shelby County grasses:

"When partially shaded, as in woods, blue grass forms a lasting pasture, but does not succeed in the full glare of the sun. Timothy, red-top, millet, oats and Hungarian grasses are productive of large crops. Clover, when mowed twice a year after the first one, dies out about the third or fourth summer. As for winter pastures, nothing need be more luxuriant than the orchard grass and the winter rye, both of which stay green and grow every day in the season. Orchard grass does finely the whole year. Bermuda grows luxuriantly during the summer, and furnishes in this way an inexhaustible pasturage. It does not get high enough or sufficiently tender for profitable mowing and it dies down to the roots in the winter. These are objections to it, but they are offset by certain inestimable virtues, including the fact that nothing short of repeated summer plowings can kill it out, and that a few sprigs dropped here and there and covered by the foot will soon check washings in any land."

Since Mr. Killebrew wrote, a new grass has made its appearance in Shelby; it is the Lespedeza, which springs up spontaneously in the late Spring and, like the Bermuda grass, stands the hottest glare of the sun. It is a fierce fighter, but easily worked, and before its march the old sedge fields are gradually disappearing. There goes with this "broom sedge," as it is termed, no regret, except that which may be indulged in by the small boy, and the old man in his recollections of the past; for though this sedge is useless, it still hid many a "molly-cotton tail," and when the grass was fired, there was great sport in bringing down the frightened hare as he leaped with the swiftness of the wind from the crackling sedge.

There are also in creek bottoms of Shelby, switch cane, and a long coarse grass termed "bull grass," both of which furnish a nutritious pasturage for stock throughout the Winter, without giving man any trouble at all. Shelby County farmers also make excellent use of the common field pea. This plant grows luxuriantly on the poorest possible soil. By turning it under the poverty of worn out land takes on a vigor and a richness that is surprising. The pea-vine hay is excellent for stock and work animals, some farmers claiming that by judicious feeding of it the corn crib need be called upon but seldom.

Clover, which seems to be the criterion for all hay lands, is an abundant growth in Tennessee. After the first year, two crops can be cut, each yielding from two to four tons per acre. It grows from two and a half feet to four feet high, and does not die out until the end of the fourth summer. As the County is thus plentifully supplied with the best grasses possible and is abundantly watered it presents a splendid scene for the efforts of the stock farmer. Indeed, this class is already making inroads on the cotton plantations, their work being one of the chief causes which lead to Shelby County's ready acceptance of second place as a cotton producing country.

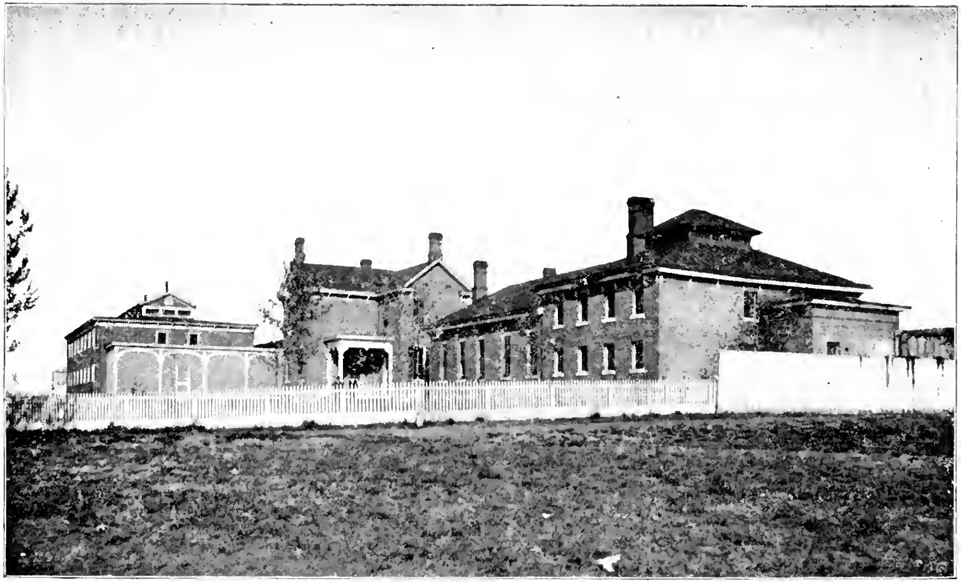
TRUCK FARMING IN SHELBY COUNTY.

With a large and progressive city within the County it was natural that owners of farms near the town should turn their attention to truck farming. They found the County admirably adapted to this species of husbandry, and in past years some very comfortable fortunes have been made from 100-acre tracts, and even from those containing fifty or twenty-five acres. The home market for vegetables, being a large one, offers an excellent opportunity for ready sales and cash results. Besides, the truck farmers of Shelby County long ago learned that not only Memphis, but the cities of the North and East paid right royal tribute to their potato fields and truck patches, consequently, each year Memphis and all way-side County stations along the eleven great lines of railroad that touch the County, were large exporters of potatoes, berries, English peas, cabbage and string beans. Greens, such as spinach, etc., are exported in smaller quantities, as are beets, onions, cucumbers, turnips, cantaloupes and asparagus. This latter list though, as a rule, is reserved for home consumption, where the markets are also filled with every vegetable, all grown with ease within the County. Celery does not thrive well without considerable labor, and artichokes and horseradish are not cultivated to any great marketable value. Potatoes are the chief crop. Of these the exports from the city for 1896 amounted to 101,556 barrels; moreover, each railway station in the County did a large business in this direction. In fact, from statistics issued by the Louisville & Nashville Road in

1894, the little village of Springdale, four miles northeast of Memphis, is credited with shipping over this road more potatoes than any other station along this line.

Three years ago reliable advice from the truck farmers of Shelby County was to the effect that a truck farm of one hundred acres within four miles of Memphis, ought to average as high as one hundred dollars per acre; while a smaller acreage, under proper farming, should bring in even a larger yield. Since 1894 truck farming in Shelby County has met with the same reverses that have confronted it elsewhere. Large consumers in 1894 began to figure early vegetables upon the price of staple can goods. Besides, many cotton planters of the South, as commercial drummers would put it, carried vegetables as a side line to their cotton, which glutted the truck market with an inferior quality of vegetables. Had the truck from the cotton plantations been of good quality, no damage would have resulted except that consequent upon an overstocked market. Small prices prevailing for truck would have run the cotton farmer out of the market, and truck gardening would have again become a bonanza for those who followed it for a livelihood. When the inferior vegetables from the planters were marketed, however, large consumers found them not more desirable than the best quality of canned goods, and it was due to this that the canned goods basis was established, which has worked great injury to the truck gardeners throughout the whole country. In spite of all this, though, trucking in Shelby County pays; for, except where the crop is a standing one, like asparagus, the truck farmer can always gather two crops each year from the same pieces of land.

In the main, then, this class of agriculturalists is doing very well, perhaps better than anywhere else in the State. The labor employed in these higher branches of agriculture is more expensive



PHOTOGRAPH BY BINGHAM.

"A COUNTY WORKHOUSE WHICH IS SELF-SUSTAINING."

than that procured by the common farmers. Gardeners get from thirty to fifty dollars a month and are lodged and boarded. Laborers get from twenty to thirty dollars and findings.

STRAWBERRIES AND FRUIT IN SHELBY COUNTY.

Prior to the drouths of 1895 the strawberry crop of the County was remarkable in more ways than one. The yield per acre amounted to between seventy-five and one hundred crates. In the summer of that year, however, most of the plants were killed and replanting became necessary. So profitable had this crop proved to those engaged in it that 1896 found all of the old beds in thriving condition and a large increase in acreage.

The crop is one easily cultivated, and, in this County at least, picking the berries seems to be more of a pleasure than labor, and, in consequence, gathering this crop is accomplished without difficulty, the hands vying with each other for the work. It is not an expensive crop, when the profits are considered, it being estimated that each crate costs something less than 50 cents when worked, gathered, crated, carted and put on the market. All over this sum represents land rent, interest on money invested and net profits.

From the foregoing estimate it would appear that the strawberry crop is the most profitable of the truck variety, as well as being the most satisfactory in the sense of giving the least amount of trouble and worry.

There is no better country for raspberries and blackberries, the latter being remarkably large and juicy when cultivated, and the former maturing excellently and in every variety.

Peaches and summer apples yield bountifully. Indeed, the peaches and the pears of Shelby County have more than a local reputation. The latter fruit, raised near Bartlett, and called the

Bartlett pear, is known and enjoyed in all the cities in the middle section of the nation, while the former are in size second only to the California fruit, and, in the opinion of many, far superior to it in flavor.

The native grapes are productive in satisfactory quantities, especially the Hartford, the Concord and the Scuppernong, there being many large and valuable vineyards in the County that have been found paying institutions. Apricots are not so certain, as they usually bloom out so early as to get the embryo fruit nipped by the frost. Small fruit, such as plums of all varieties, cherries, etc., have nothing to fear from the cold, which is at no time very severe, and seldom penetrating more than an inch.

Concerning the natural fruits and the plenty with which nature has blessed this County, Killebrew, in his official report, says: "No wonder the Indians tought long and hard to retain such a paradise for them as was this section, for the forest supplied them bountifully with blackberries, mulberries, hazlenuts, walnuts and hickorynuts, chincapins, black and red haws, acorns, roots, grapes, and three or four sorts of palatable plums. The boy of today can scarce form an idea of the once fruitful condition of the forests, and just in the fact of this fruitfulness lies the reason why such countless numbers of wild animals and Indians could be subsisted, and which enabled the pioneers to live so far from the centers of civilization. What wonder the red man scorned to till the soil when nature supplied his simple wants."

THE TIMBER OF SHELBY COUNTY.

Shelby County is credited with 125,000 acres in woodland, according to Killebrew's official report.

These forests contain "walnut, a half dozen kinds of oak, three of maple, two of poplar, two of hickory, two of elm, two of locust, two of gum, the cottonwood and others not so common."

In late years the lumber interest of the South has contributed largely toward its upbuilding, but nowhere has its beneficial influence been experienced more fully than in Shelby County. For years the saw mills on Wolf river used the forests of Shelby County as food for the saws, but the bulk of the business up to 1881, was more to supply the home demand, which required only a limited variety of lumber, than for shipment elsewhere. In 1880 an enterprising lumberman established in Memphis a small plant for the manufacture of hardwood lumber.

Prosperity followed hard upon the venture, and other dealers in timber were soon thereafter delving into the woods and bringing from their depths abundance of riches to reward their intelligent effort and to pay tribute to the common good.

During the ten years that followed the lumber interests of Memphis, and consequently of Shelby County, grew so rapidly that it rivaled the cotton trade. Mills sprang up like magic, and the buzz of the saw in the forest was heard almost as frequently as the bark of the squirrel, and the burden of its hum was prosperity.

The hewer of wood discovered that he had become of prime importance. Logs that were nuisances to newly-cleared fields became valuable, and no longer did the fires of the clearings lick into the hearts of the mighty trees.

These were saved for the saws of the mills and at once enriched both the owners of the land and those whose perspicuity had seen and whose industry could reap the wealth locked up in them.

The immigrant who comes to this County and settles upon timber lands can, by felling and selling the lumber, do as well, pecuniarily, the first year as if his lands had not a stick nor a stone upon them.

Afterward, when the clearing is made, the farmer finds beneath his feet a virgin soil that will respond gratefully and liberally to his husbandry for the remainder of his life. Thus the very woods of Shelby County offer inducements to the rural home-seeker, and at the same time hold out a rich reward for the manufacturer.

In order to show the vast importance of this lumber trade the lumbermen of Memphis have cheerfully and accurately furnished for publication the following facts, which speak for themselves:

Number of hands employed	3,274
Annual wages	$946,200.00
Number of feet handled	202,400,000
Local consumption	29,400,000
Number of cars handled	23,680
Gross business	$4,855,000.00
Capital invested	2,898,000.00
Capital invested in plants	972,500.00
Average price per 1000 feet	23.97

LIVE STOCK.

In late years Shelby has been steadily coming to the front as a stock raising County. Prior to, and just after the war, the lands of this County were given over almost exclusively to cotton farming, but in 1879 three farmers living in the neighborhood of Buntyn, a station about seven miles out from Memphis, brought to the County a magnificent Jersey bull. This importation was followed shortly afterwards by the introduction of a number of cows of the pure Jersey blood and several more bulls. Then, some farmers in the more southern portion of the County imported a few registered Holstein cattle. The result was that a friendly rivalry arose respecting the merits of the two breeds, and, in the ardor that ensued, Jerseys and Holsteins were imported in droves. The County soon became largely stocked with these two high grade classes of cattle, but the preference for the Jersey made itself manifest, and today it is confidently asserted that there are more Jersey cattle in Shelby County than in any other county in the South.

This statement will most likely strike our neighbor of Davidson County, Tennessee, with surprise and be regarded by him as a kind of long-bow yarn, for Davidson County has heretofore boasted to the world as being the only county in the South where the pure bred Jersey is raised in any number; yet, if a census of this breed of cattle should be taken Shelby County would be found in the lead so far as mere numbers are concerned. In Davidson County there are some well-known stock farms. Upon these are assembled most of the fine cattle of the county. In Shelby there are no farms devoted exclusively to the breeding of registered Jerseys, but very many farmers and numbers of town residents possess one or more of this breed. Hence the Jerseys of Shelby are not known to the world, but nevertheless they are found distributed more generally through the County than any other breed of stock.

Another excellent effect brought about by this general dissemination of high-grade cattle is that Shelby County has no scrub stock. The Jersey or the Holstein blood has mingled with that of the old Indian cow and the strain is proving one of the healthiest and best of family cows. This Indian breed, as the scrub cattle is called, is a hardy animal. It is a kind of a survival of the fittest. It grew up under difficulties too innumerable to mention, but it survived, consequently when allied to the rich butter making quality of the Jersey it brings hardihood and health, two qualities that are found lacking in the pure Jersey. It also produces a more

"TURNPIKES AND IRON BRIDGES FREE FROM TOLL."

copious flow of milk, without decreasing the general richness, thus even the humblest farmer in Shelby County is able to own milch cows second to none.

The pure Jersey does as well and is as healthy in this County as in others. The Holstein, too, thrives and is not more subject to disease than the native cow, but the Ayeshire is prone to take murrain and therefore this breed is not a favorite in Shelby.

Long ago the razor-back hog disappeared from Shelby. In some portions of the South it is still held that unless a hog is thin enough to outrun a negro and his dogs and has a snout long enough to root under a fence he is of no value. In Shelby these conditions have ceased to exist. Here the life of the hog is now as sacred as that of any other domestic animal. He has his rights and he knows them, and he has become a self-assertive animal, quite ready to enter the prize lists with any of his Northern brethren. The breeds that are most general and seem to find the climate most suitable are the Berkshire and the Poland China. Of late the red Jersey hog has been making himself evident about the farms. He, too, appears to like this section of the country, for he waxes fat readily upon the mast of the forest, as well as upon the corn of the farmers' cribs.

Some five or six years ago sheep were raised on nearly every farm. The breeds most sought after were the Southdown and the Cotswold, the former being the favorite. It looked for a while as if the farmers of the County would raise nothing else but sheep. They increased with marvelous rapidity, and it seemed were absolutely free from disease, but in 1895 the Legislature passed a fence law, which legalized a three-strand wire fence, and proved a death-blow to the sheep industry of Shelby. Since the passage of this law our farmers have sold sheep upon every occasion, until now there are only a few large herds left in the County. Each farmer usually raises enough for private use, but interest in sheep breeding is at an end, though, if the farmer has land enough to keep the herd up and is willing to spend money on a fence that will hold sheep, there is no reason why this industry should not be profitable in Shelby.

The excellence of Shelby County as a home for fine horses has long since been demonstrated. There are within the County several farms where the trotting horse is reared, and the animals from these farms have made records both on the track and on the road. As a rule the horses of Shelby are not trained for the track, but when the owners do take the pains to push their colts with the view to racing the results are good. The best time yet made by any Shelby County born and bred trotter is 2:13 which was made several years ago by a colt born on Dr. N. C. Perkin's farm and trained under his supervision. The road is the place where the real excellence of the trotting horse is appreciated, and in this respect the roadsters of this County are second to none. The breeds include the blood of all of the more notable trotters, with the Tennessee Wilkes and the Hambletonian prevailing. High pedigreed stallions are owned in several portions of the County, the most famous perhaps beirg in the Greer, the McFarland, the Collier and the Hunt stables.

In the suburbs of Memphis is a trotting park where events are annually contested and where latterly the services of skilled trainers may be had. Another park, devoted to the thoroughbred running horses, is Montgomery Park where each spring the fastest horses in the country are brought forward to contest for the stakes and purses. This park is under the management of the New Memphis Jockey Club, which has provided commodious and well equipped winter quarters for the flyers, and it is noticeable that horse owners seek the privilege of wintering at Montgomery Park with more and more eagerness, as experience teaches them the many advantages that the climate, the water and the soil of Shelby offer. These owners claim that there is just enough cold and frost in the winter to harden the hoofs and free the feet from fever. They agree that the water is superb and that the timothy grown on the Shelby County farm ripens and is cut just as the last year's timothy begins to become musty. In this last respect this County is most fortunate. Its lands grow readily some three tons of timothy to the acre. It is, too, of the sweetest and most nutritious quality, and, as it comes in before the Northern crop, is, as these horsemen say, invaluable by reason of its freshness, in preventing sickness among the horses.

A reference to the grasses of Shelby and to the topography of the County, where the water courses and streams are mentioned, will convince the most skeptical that as a home for live stock this County is not altogether excelled even by the bluegrass regions of Kentucky. The citizens and the farmers are appreciating this fact and the result is that the average stock of the County will compare favorably with that of any county in the Union.

CLIMATE OF SHELBY COUNTY.

The climate of a country should be the first consideration of those contemplating immigration. Upon the weather and the skies, after all, much of the happiness of the human race depends. A rigorous and tempestuous atmosphere can embitter the life of the most robust, while the balmy beauty in which natures revels when the climate is favorable always infuses sweetness into the lives of the dwellers in such spots. The sun is just near enough to Shelby County to mellow the natures of its people as it ripens to perfection the fruits of the earth.

The statistics, as quoted by the Merchants' Exchange Official Annual, show: "The annual mean temperature, computed from 26 years' observations, is 61.5 degrees. The average by months is as follows: January, 40.4 degs.; February, 44.8 degs.; March, 51.7 degs.; April, 62.6 degs.; May, 70.6 degs.; June, 78.2 degs.; July, 81 degs.; August, 79.2 degs.; September, 72.5 degs.; October, 62.1 degs.; November, 50.6 degs.; December, 44.0 degs. The temperature by seasons is as follows: Winter, 43 degs.; Spring, 62 degs.; Summer, 80 degs.; Autumn, 62 degs. The constancy of the climate as regards temperature is strikingly shown by the fact that during the past twenty-six years the difference between the highest and lowest annual mean temperature is only 3½ degs. * * * The quantity of rain or snow which falls in the course of a year, and the times and manner of its falling, are circumstances which have a great effect on climate. The frequency of rainfalls in West Tennessee is a feature of the climate which must not be overlooked, since it is a prominent characteristic of this section, and one which contributes largely to the fertility of the soil, as well as the influence it exerts on animal life. The mean annual rainfall at Memphis is 52.15 inches, distributed through the year as follows: January, 5.47 inches; February, 5.23 inches; March, 5.83 inches; April, 5.46 inches; May, 4.44 inches; June, 4.58 inches; July, 3.40 inches; August, 3.50 inches; September, 3.12 inches; October, 2.74 inches; November, 4.77 inches; December, 5.03 inches, and by seasons: Winter, 14.73 inches; spring, 15.72 inches; summer, 11.48 inches. * * * During the growing season the sky is cloudless from twelve to fourteen days each month, while the winter months have but nine. * * * The average number of days between the last killing frost of spring and the first killing frost in autumn is 213."

The beauty of Sheby County as it radiates beneath its exquisite climatic influence is noteworthy. Indeed, in the exuberance of the very joy of living in this region a gifted Kentuckian, Mr. G. C Matthews, who is at present editor of the Macon (Ga.) Telegraph, and formerly a resident of Memphis, was led into the following eloquent and poetical description:

"Spring in West Tennessee must be seen to be appreciated, must be felt to be enjoyed. No pen is adequate to describe it, no brush do it the semblance of justice. The beautiful conceptions of Millet, even, are but hints—vague and indistinct shadows—compared with the country here at this season. Beautiful! It seems to have been created but yesterday by the Divine Artist. Fresh from the brush of God, it appears to have been set in the World's Gallery that it may be admired, not only by men, but that passing angels might occasionally pause on poised wings, and, drinking in its beauty, wheel back to heaven to tell their fellows abiding beside the 'still waters' of the love and thoughtfulness of God toward mankind.

"The 'sweet, dry salubrity' mentioned by Cable is here not only, but the beauty which must have been in the mind of Tom Moore when he was singing of the 'Vale of Cashmere.' Trees which loomed through the winter like tawny sentinels have donned the garb of the season and now joyously sigh as the breeze dallies coquetishly with them. 'All's well!' From among their dark depths the spotless pompons of the dogwoods gleam as white as pure thoughts. The gentians in their gladness endeavor to attract the eye from any unevenness in the landscape. The violets and daisies peep modestly up from their coverts. The waters sparkle in a oyous laugh and the wild rose grows faintly red beneath the amorous kisses of the sun. Seeking some spot beneath the poplars wreathed in the morning shadows, one feels as if he would like to dream his life away. How like a vision the scene appears! Around him as far as the eye can reach sweep fields and pastures where there is balm of breathing kine; happy homes dot the land; there are the low of browsing herds and the bleat of grazing flocks; and so on—on—

> "Till the floating prospect closes
> In golden glimmers that rise and rest,
> And perhaps are scenes of paradise,
> And perhaps too far for mortal eyes.

"There above tower the poplars, their blossoms making one wonder if heaven's censers had toppled and spilled their incense around; the bees hum, and a bird, shaking its feathers, fills the air with the plaintive poem of peace.

"Beautiful? There is no more attractive section on earth."

The foregoing from a son of Kentucky, a State that boasts the brightest skies and greenest fields of earth, should speak volumes for the loveliness of Shelby County. Nor is spring the only season of charm. Summer has its calm and radiant glory, and autumn in Shelby County develops a wealth of color, royal and dazzling, gleaming in purple and yellow, and palpitant with the georgous beauty of great golden sun shafts and the tossing glint of emblazoned foliage. Even crabbed winter is not unkind in Shelby, but in its love sends just enough of its flurrying snowflakes to tell the people of their beauty without nipping them with its jaws of hard and hoary frost.

RAILROADS OF SHELBY COUNTY.

The transportation facilities of Shelby County are exceptionally good. Ten lines of railway center upon the Chickasaw Bluffs. Of these seven spread out East of the City of Memphis.

The radiation of these lines from the County seat could not have been better placed for the interest of Shelby County if they had been drawn to order. With the Mississippi river running North and South, and Memphis as a hub, these railways may be likened to the spokes of the wheel, seven of them stretching out Eastward through the County, feeding and being fed, while three cross the Mississippi, reaching for the wealth of the West.

Three of these lines of railway, the Chesapeake & Ohio, the Yazoo & Mississippi Valley, and the old Mississippi & Tennessee are now the property of the great Illinois Central system. The Memphis & Charleston was the first railroad constructed, the Louisville & Nashville was the third, and is now one of the first in importance.

Then followed the Memphis & Birmingham and the Tennessee Midland, the latter now a part of the Nashville, Chattanooga, and St. Louis system. To the West are the Little Rock & Memphis, the Iron Mountain and Kansas City, Fort Scott & Springfield. The "Cotton Belt" (St. Louis Southern) sends its trains to Memphis, but does not bring its own rails into the city; yet it is an important factor in the commerce of the Bluff City, and if counted with the others raises the number of lines to eleven.

The Citizens Street Car Company, an electric line in the city of Memphis, has also carried its rails for twelve miles into the heart of the County in one direction and from two and a half miles to four and one-half miles on other routes.

A belt line of railway is also partially contructed. This circles the city at a distance of five miles or more from its center, and when completed will prove another convenient method of marketing County crops.

Thus is the County penetrated and intersected with transportation facilities until it is impossible to travel many miles from any point in a given direction without striking a railroad, each one of which means a vast volume of wealth to the County through which it passes.

PUBLIC SCHOOLS OF SHELBY COUNTY.

One institution wherein Shelby County centers its hope and its pride is the admirable system of public schools. The County is thoroughly supplied with neat and convenient buildings, where capable teachers dispense the knowledge that fits the children to take up the battle of life and carry its burdens and its victories with the intelligence of the scholar and the wisdom of the Christian-taught pupil of advanced civilization.

This article will not treat of the public schools of the city of Memphis. They are superior in every respect and numerous enough to provide instruction for the children of the city's 100,000 inhabitants. The school houses of the city, too, are handsome structures of brick and stone and are equipped with every modern improvement. In the latter respect the schools of the County, which are separate and distinct from those of the city, are equally up to date. The buildings are not so costly as are those of the city, but they are comfortable, commodious and appropriate, answering every purpose to the entire satisfaction of the teachers and the public at large. Aside from the thoroughness of the course in these schools, the most satisfactory feature is the extent of the system. It reaches the children of the secluded and remote corners of the County, as well as the dwellers in more populous communities. No discrimination whatever is shown. If, because of more favorable natural or artificial conditions, one locality is more thickly settled than another this circumstance has not operated to deprive the more thinly populated regions of the blessings of adequately arranged public schools.

The County is divided into twenty school districts, each of which is supervised by three school directors, who are constantly on the alert to secure the most advanced methods for the schools of their respective districts. There are in the County one hundred and fifty school-houses, of which eighty-seven are for the white pupils and sixty-three are devoted to the education of the children of the blacks. The number of teachers is one hundred and eighty-two, one hundred and thirteen white and sixty-nine colored. The scholastic population numbers 28,709. Teachers are paid $40.80 per month, or at least, this is the average compensation for the work.

The estimated value of the school-houses and grounds is $108,-547; value of school appliances $3,239. The appropriation last year for school purposes was twenty-three cents on the one hundred dollars of taxable property. As the appropriation to the general revenue fund, which pays the running expenses of the County, was only 24 cents it may be seen how very important the school interests of the County are to the rulers of the County finances. At 23 cents on the one hundred dollars, this sum put aside for the education of the County children will amount to something like $90,000 per annum.

Be it remembered that the city schools do not receive one cent of this princely sum. It is expended upon the children of the farmer and farm laborer, and thus does Shelby County prove its democracy by giving to the needy as good an opportunity for an education as the children of the wealthy can enjoy. The public schools of both city and County have proved so excellent in their results that they have usurped the place formerly occupied by the private pay-schools, and, by reason of this, the parents of poor and rich alike patronize the free schools, which has led to the introduction of those higher grades of learning into the public schools which, if the pupil chooses to pursue them, fit him admirably for collegiate or university careers.

The course in the County public schools consists of eleven grades, two terms each, and pupils are required to undergo rigid examinations every quarter. All modern methods are in use in these schools, from the primary grade to the high school course. For the little ones just entering school, paper folding and clay modeling are put into their little hands, and through these is inspired that love for knowledge that tends to stimulate their after efforts.

The plan adopted with students is not the harsh "spare the rod and spoil the child" idea that prevailed in the past, but the more satisfactory one of interesting the young mind in accumulating learning by making study and school life pleasant to the pupils. This plan has been found to work exceedingly well, except in a few isolated cases—when the rod is not spared. Still, one of the canons of the school regulations is that the teacher shall not whip the children, and it is seldom, indeed, that it becomes necessary for the parent to apply the hickory to the child by request of the teacher. As the parent is the one responsible for the exclusion of the switch from the schools a request of this kind is never slighted. Indeed, the parent, under such circumstances, so great is the average citizen's interest in the schools of the County, usually punishes more severely than the teacher would have done.

These teachers are selected upon examination, and for their ability alone. Their intellectural attainments are of the high order, capable of imparting knowledge to others, and, that they themselves may keep abreast of the ever forward march of child education, they have the privilege of the State Normal School; also the advantage of the institution known as the Teachers' Institute of Shelby County. This organization has been in existence for years. It was introduced by Maj. George B. Fleece and has been recently perfected by the present Superintendent of County Instruction, Mrs. Lyde P. Thomas. At the meetings of the Institute the most advanced thoughts and ideas and experiments relating to the education of the youth of the land are ably interpreted by either one of the teachers or by some distinguished educator whose services are secured by the Institute.

The County school teachers have formed among themselves a circulating library, and by means of this every educational journal of any degree of prominence is at the disposal of the members. Thus equipped, the teachers are able to give the pupils of the County the advantage of the most modern and progressive system of education known to the world. The result is that where, in other counties, the old field school labors in its slow awkwardness, in Shelby, even in the more remote precincts, modern methods and a model system of education prevails

As these benefits are enjoyed by the negro, the humble black child, though separated from the white children, has advantages in Shelby County, in an educational way, in advance of those given the white children in many Southern and Northern cities.

Near Brunswick, in the First District, is Bolton College, an in titution endowed largely with money and lands by the late Wade Bolton. Tuition at this college is free to the children of citizens of the district in which it is located. The college is largely patronized and ably managed, the corps of teachers being selected with great care. From this institution of learning have come some of the best equipped business men of the County and also some of the most learned scholars. The revenue from the landed possessions of the college is more than sufficient to meet the current expenses, and the last report of the Finance Committee showed a balance to the credit of the institution of about $70,000.

There are more churches in Shelby County than school houses. If, therefore, as has been shown, the County is plentifully equipped with structures of secular learning, it is easily seen that the people of Shelby have not been behind in religious zeal, and many are the churches where both young and old gather for their spiritual instruction.

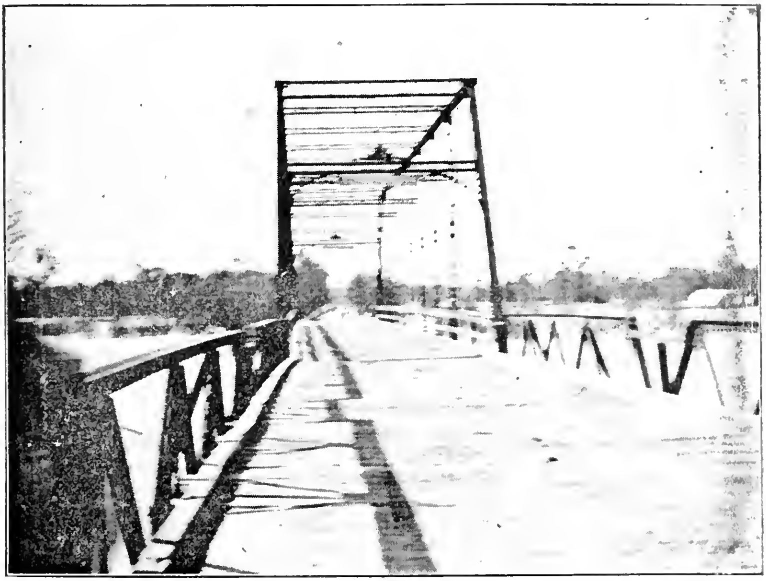
In the larger towns wealth has reared grand and beautiful temples to the Most High, but not the less lovely and hallowed are the simple houses of God, which include nearly every denomination, that are thickly dotted through the picturesque country.

TOWNS OF SHELBY COUNTY.

Of the towns of Shelby County, Memphis is of first importance. Indeed, much of the County's prosperity and advancement are due to the commercial and manufacturing achievements of the city of Memphis. If but little is said of this fair city, called the "Queen of the Valley," in this publication, it is because its industries, its importance and its phenomenal progress have been deemed worthy of a separate volume wherein are set forth its many advantages.

Suffice it to say here that Memphis is a model city of one hundred thousand inhabitants, equipped with all modern improvements. The heart of the city is paved with vitrified brick and granite stones, while the streets less frequented by the weight of commercial traffic are spread with a superior gravel, which offers a smooth and excellent roadbed for pleasure vehicles of every description, being also of sufficient durability to stand the occasional wear of city business. Its sanitary facilities in sewerage and pure water are unrivaled; it contains forty-seven miles of paved streets, sixty-three miles of sewerage, and, including the immediate suburbs, sixty-five miles of electric railway. The city is watered and swept every night, and for years has been kept as clean and neat as a pin. The public schools are without superiors, both as regards the school-houses and the system in vogue; and the citizens are enterprising and vigorous in all mercantile affairs, displaying at the same time a praiseworthy public spirit, and ready at all times to give a hospitable welcome to the new comers.

The government of Memphis is lodged in a Mayor and City Council, the members being elected by the people at large, rather than by and from the respective wards. This government has been found most satisfactory.



"A MAGNIFICENT SYSTEM OF IRON BRIDGES."

The present Mayor and Council, in particular, displaying laudable activity and creditable business acumen in administering the public trust given into their keeping.

Collierville is the second city in size within the County, but its upbuilding has been of recent date. It contains some fifteen hundred souls, and is thriving and prosperous.

Other towns or villages which offer marts to the County farmer, and which in Shelby's diadem may be called the lovely small stones that set off the dazzling richness of Memphis, the central gem, are Germantown, Arlington, Brunswick, Bartlett, Forest Hill, Raleigh, Binghamton, and a dozen others, while innumerable postoffices and stores are found throughout the County.

Raleigh, located some twelve miles from Memphis, was once the County seat. It is now the eastern terminus of an electric street car line, and is famous as a watering place, its hills and dales and noble forests delighting the eye, while the mineral in the waters of its many springs is said to be an excellent tonic for the indisposed. One spring deserves particular mention, as it is given over to the mites of humanity. This spring is called the "Baby Spring," and the mothers of Shelby County bless its healing waters as being invaluable to the babes in the dangerous days of the second summer.

OTHER PUBLIC INSTITUTIONS.

THE JAIL.

Shelby County is unusually well supplied with public institutions. Its jail is a very splendid building and exceptionally strong. This structure was erected many years ago. It consists of a large steel cage inclosed in a brick building, which in turn is circled with a high brick wall. The steel cage is the real jail, and from it no prisoner has ever broken his way to freedom, though there have been some escapes, owing to carelessness of jailers or their deputies. The jail cost, completed, about $400,000.

THE COURT HOUSE.

The Court House of the County is not on a par with the excellence of the jail, though it is a handsome building, commodious and suitable. The County Court, in 1861, when a phenomenal tide of prosperity flowed into the County, ordered a Court House building erected which would have rivaled many capitols of Southern States. It was intended that this structure should cost $750,-000, but when the architect's plans had been accepted and the work was about to be given out the Civil War came on and Shelby was forced to give over the magnificent venture, together with many other fond hopes.

THE WORK HOUSE.

The County Work House, wherein prisoners guilty of misdemeanor expiate their crimes, is an admirable building for the purpose. About it the County has a large tract of land, which is worked by these petty criminals, who also labor upon the roads of the County, and thus, when credit is given for the true value of this work, the institution is found to be self-sustaining.

The Work House is under the direct control of a superintendent, who answers to the Work House Commissioners, the members of which are selected from the ranks of County Magistrates, and who exercise a discriminate control over the work of the convicts, so that the interests of both criminals and the public are carefully guarded.

PUBLIC CHARITIES.

The County's public charities consist of a home for the poor and an asylum for the insane. Both institutions are beautifully located upon the classic Raleigh Road. The inmates are kindly and thoughtfully considered and are the recipients of many affectionate favors from the more fortunate citizens of the County. A physician of reputation and ability is constantly in attendance at these institutions, and thus the poor of Shelby are quartered in a palace and command the services of science.

The Insane Asylum treats only those afflicted beings whose minds are mildly and slightly affected. It was erected for the convenience—not the necessity—of Shelby County, as the State of

Tennessee takes loving and admirable care of its insane, and State institutions for this work are located at Bolivar and at Nashville.

BRIDGES AND ROADS.

BRIDGES OF SHELBY COUNTY.

No publication of this kind would be complete without reference to the magnificent iron bridges that span the streams of the County and the system of turnpikes that thread its fields and forests. The great bridge over the Mississippi, while resting one of its mighty approaches upon the soil of Shelby, is not County property, except in so far as it pays taxes; but the bridges over Wolf, Hatche, Bayou Gayoso, Nonconnah and other streams were erected at the public expense and for the public enjoyment. In many of the counties, both of the North and South, the farmer carting his produce to market is mulcted of toll when crossing bridges, because the Commonwealth neglects its duty and sells its prerogative to the higest bidder, who forthwith levies this toll tax upon the people. Shelby County has rightly declined to farm out to individuals this right to create taxes upon its citizens. On the contrary, the County has seen its duty and has executed it. At first wooden bridges were built; but in recent years the perishable structures have given place to magnificent viaducts of steel and iron. Ten of these superb bridges have been erected by the County, and whenever an existing wooden structure shows sign of disruption it is at once replaced with the more durable and far safer metal. These bridges have cost the County something over $100,000, but it is regarded as money well spent.

COUNTY TURNPIKES.

In the matter of Turnpikes the County quadruples the number of miles of paved streets possessed by the city, there being one hundred and sixty-seven miles of well-graded pikes stretching in every direction through the County.

The Turnpike Board is composed of the Chairman of the County Court and two other citizens.

An appropriation of ten cents on the hundred dollars of all the taxable property of the County is placed to the credit of this Board.

It is the duty of the Board to spend this fund, which will average $45,000 per year, in the most economical and advantageous manner conducive to the maintenance and extension of the turnpikes of the County. The greatest freedom has been given to the Board, which has exercised its power in a discriminating and highly creditable manner. Existing turnpikes are in the main beyond criticism, and the Board from its creation has earned a flattering opinion from the public at large. The plan adopted is to maintain in splendid condition all existing pikes, and when this is done to extend the system. Each year from fourteen to twenty-four miles have been added, and ere many years shall have passed every road in the County will have been converted into a turnpike. This turnpike is built of gravel, which beneath the wheels of travel is crushed, and is then cemented into a smooth, hard surface that affords the best possible roadbed for country travel. It costs about $2,250 per mile, but Shelby County people say that to them it is worth double the price paid.

A WORD FOR THE SOUTH.

In ending, a word for the South, not with a view to extravagant praise, but merely to call attention to a fact not generally known beyond this section of the Union. The South produces no beggars. There is in this land no excuse for the existence of a robust and healthy pauper; for here, so great is the credit given to honest labor, that no man need be without the means of earning a livelihood. He who has the ability to follow a plow may obtain the necessaries of life by simple application to his work.

Every plantation throughout the length and breadth of the land extends to labor a superb system of credit, whereby a living may be earned and yet the laborer be as independent as any being on earth. For the asking, there is furnished him shoes for his feet and clothes for his person, food for his sustenance and land for his plow; the plow itself and the team to draw it, a garden patch for his family, a house to shelter him and fuel to keep him warm, all this and more, not at the instance of stocks and bonds, but for that collateral alone which is within the reach of all—willing hands and an honest purpose to work for a living. No other country on the face of the earth offers agricultural labor such a magnificent credit. No other country could afford it, for none yields so rich a harvest.

Shelby County is the banner county of this favored region, and it gathers in with its briarean arms the wealth from every land and every sea, and in turn dispenses untold blessings to a happy and contented people.

The Pyramid and Its Builders.

THE CENTENNIAL MOVEMENT.

When the Tennessee Centennial movement began to be noised abroad Shelby County at first displayed little interest.

"It is not our affair," were the words heard upon all sides, and often to this expression was added, "it is Nashville's show; let the city on the Cumberland take the risk and receive either the reward or the ruin, according to the result."

Davidson County then made an appeal to her sister counties, and though the great city of Memphis had stood aloof when Nashville called for aid, the generous County of Shelby was more magnanimous. Patriotic men who lived in the rural districts took a keen interest in the situation; the great body of the people displayed unusual zeal, but the utillitarians of the city, almost to a man, opposed co-operative work on the part of Shelby County. These urged that the Centennial would prove but an advertisement for Nashville, and that help from Shelby would be arming her rival with a club to belabor Memphis. For once the voice of mere usefulness was unheeded. A patriotic sentiment prevailed, which was aroused to the pitch of action by the estimable and progressive women of both city and County.

The magistrates of Shelby County are nearer the people than any other set of officials, consequently in their chimney-corner talks they learned the true sentiments of their constituents, which was that the County should not only contribute to the Centennial Exposition, but do so lavishly and generously, to comport with its wealth and dignity.

While the magistrates, assembled in quarterly session, deliberated upon this measure, more than half persuaded to the act, a delegation of the representative women of the County appeared. The speakers of this delegation were permitted to address the Court. Their words were few, but patriotic, eloquent and fraught with conviction. A moment later and the Squires had appropriated $25,000 for the Tennessee Centennial.

This fund was placed in the hands of a committee with Major Geo. B. Fleece as Chairman, the honor falling upon him because of his untiring efforts in advancing the good cause. Major Fleece's associates were J. M. Coleman, R. C. Graves, Dr. N. C. Perkins, N. C. Taylor and J. M. Goodbar. Mr. Goodbar afterwards resigned and W. H. Bates was appointed to fill the vacancy. Mr. Bates resigned and C. H. Albright was appointed in his stead. The committee appointed W. T. Bond secretary and solicitor for the agricultural exhibit, and Col. Robert Gates superintendent and solicitor for exhibits of a manufacturing and mercantile nature.

Real work was commenced at once, but owing to the failure of the first State Centennial organization to perfect arrangements for the prompt erection of buildings, etc., it became necessary to postpone the real Exposition for the period of one year, which put a temporary end to the committee's labors, and seriously endangered the appropriation, gained after such a hardly contested struggle.

In the beginning Tennessee's Centennial was fixed for May 1, 1896, one hundred years after the State's admission to the Union. Untoward affairs caused it, as has been said, to occur one year later. Whereupon the party in Shelby County opposing the appropriation called into question its legality. It was in this defense that the indomitable spirit and keen perception of Chairman Fleece were called into play. With the aid of Judge James M. Greer, the learned county attorney, Major Fleece was instrumental in causing the management of the Centennial to hold a formal opening upon the date first announced. This master stroke of policy fixed the letter and the spirit of the law in harmony with the resolution appropriating the $25,000, and, though the disaffected party carried the question to the Supreme Court of the State, they were unable to scale the legal barriers with which the worthy chairman and the able county attorney had fortified the appropriation.

This victory won, Major Fleece again put his committee to work. What has been accomplished speaks for itself, for the efforts of these energetic and discriminating gentlemen have gathered an exhibit that any county might well look upon with pride. They have housed it within a building that unique, appropriate and original, is at once a credit to those who erected it and a delight and object of eager interest to every visitor who enters the grounds of the Tennessee Centennial.

PHOTOGRAPH BY BINGHAM.

MAJOR GEORGE B. FLEECE,

CHAIRMAN SHELBY COUNTY CENTENNIAL BOARD.

A. G. KIMBROUGH,

CHAIRMAN COUNTY COURT OF SHELBY COUNTY.

COUNTY GOVERNMENT.

Shelby County was named for General Isaac Shelby of Kentucky, who came to Tennessee in the early days of the State and was prominently identified with the Indian wars of those days. The County was organized in 1820, and the Eleventh Surveyors District was mapped out in December of the same year. This Eleventh District includes the lands of Shelby County, and in a greater or less degree, marks property lines of the old time grants.

In 1821 the County Court appropriated $175 for the purpose of erecting a courthouse at Memphis. The structure was built of logs, and served the County for three years, when James Fentress, Benjamin Reynolds, William Martin and Robert Jetton were appointed a Commission to select a site for a courthouse. The Commission made choice of Sanderlin's bluff, on the banks of Wolf river at the town of Raleigh. They were said to have selected this site because of its central location. On this bluff then, which even to this day preserves a topographical beauty that excites admiration, Shelby County erected a large but rambling and awkward frame building, where the courts, both State and County, dispensed justice for a period of ten years. In 1834–5 the wooden structure was sold, and a two story brick structure erected as the County courthouse.

Raleigh, at this time, as it is today, was a small and insignificant village, but one presenting a picturesque site. It also had mineral springs whose waters were and are regarded as salubrious in the extreme. Still, there were few accommodations to be had at Raleigh even during the period when it was the County seat. Because of this there were numerous attempts made to move the courthouse back to the thriving town of Memphis. At last, in 1860, a committee of the Magistrates of the County and one from the City of Memphis took the matter well in hand, and worked with such vigor and earnestness as to overthrow all opposition. But this return was destined to be fraught with much expense. The County was then enjoying unusual prosperity, and it was only by promising the people a $150,000 courthouse that the committee accomplished its purpose. This courthouse was never erected. Had it been put up according to the plans adopted it would have

"A SPLENDID JAIL, STRONG AND ADEQUATE."

cost nearly $700,000, but the civil war breaking out at this time put an end to all such magnificent undertakings. The County, though, had accepted the plans of the architect, and afterwards was forced to pay some $12,000 by way of fees, and all that was received in return was a very pretty picture of a handsome building, together with the plans and specifications for erecting the same. Nevertheless, the movement made Memphis the County seat, and it has remained such to this day, with little chance of a change.

The first jail of the County was built in 1821. It cost $125. The present strong and excellent jail was erected in 1866. The contract price was $150,000, but the real cost amounted to $400,000.

The first tax levied in the County was six and one-half cents on every one hundred acres of land, and a similar amount upon every black poll.

When the civil war occurred the people of Shelby County were strong sympathizers with the Confederacy. The County sent 6,000 men to the front, although the voting population in 1860 was only 6,000.

Putting itself on record in this weighty matter, as it has never failed to do upon any question of moment, Shelby's County Court passed ringing resolutions, supporting the Confederate States, and, then, what was more to the purpose, appropriated $25,000 to the cause. It also voted $12 for the wife and $6 for every child of those volunteering to fight for the South.

After the war the County was financially wrecked, but it owed only a small sum of money, and, as its resources were plentiful, there was no fear but that it would readily recuperate if its affairs should be judiciously managed. A rich County like Shelby could not hope to escape the blighting touch of the reign of plunder and spoil that devastated the South after the war. The reins of government were, with the help of the federal soldier's bayonets, taken from the magistrates, who had, in the past, so faithfully and admirably conducted the money affairs of the County and placed in a Commission. The first of these Commissions was made up of Barbour Lewis, Ed. Shaw, (col.,) and J. E. Merriman. Other commissioners followed in turn, and for several years the County suffered under this imported form of government, which was hateful to the intelligence and the probity of the County.

During the continuance of these Commissions it seemed that every fraud known to the administration of public affairs flourished and grew fat at the expense of the County. Some of these Commissioners were honest, but the majority were not of this class. Debt was piled high for futurity to liquidate. Iniquity and unblushing spoilation ran rampant. Finally, when the franchise was returned to the ex-Confedarate, who represented the intelligence of the community, the iniquitous Commission was overturned, and the finances of the County once more given to the Magistrates, elected by the people of the various civil districts. At once a new confidence was apparent, and, though these Magistrates were confronted by an enormous debt they faced it manfully, worked like beavers for the public good and have succeeded in meeting the obligations of the County without bringing on the people any humiliating repudiation.

At present the County financially stands well. It has paid many hundreds of thousands of dollars piled up by corruption, but in the payment thereof, so discriminating has been the financiering that none of the proper developments of the County has been neglected, nor has the tax rate been unduly high; but simple honesty has been at work, coupled with a clear-headed business policy, and the result is that while Shelby yet owes money it commands credit and confidence.

One of Tennessee's statesmen has said that without the Democratic party and the County Court the State would go to the dogs. Once the State had neither, and it went to the bow-wows as rapidly as possible. Now, for many years, the State has been ruled by Democracy and the counties by their County Courts. Prosperity has returned beneath these rulers, the evidence for the State being the Centennial Exposition; that for the counties shows itself in every road and every public improvement, and in Shelby, at least, the result is most gratifying. Here the schools are on a par with the most advanced systems of the world, the roads are being rapidly turned into turnpikes and the public buildings are of a nature to excite pride in the breast of every citizen.

Shelby County owes $319,100, which is being retired as it falls due, the last series of bonds being payable in 1924. Of this indebtedness $120,000 was issued in 1893 to liquidate outstanding warrants. When these bonds were issued the credit of the County was of such excellent repute that capital paid a premium of 6 cents on the dollar for the mere privilege of buying. Since the date of the issuance of these bonds the County finances have been creditably managed, consequently the County's credit today is better than ever. The tax rate for several years has not reached one dollar on the hundred, and last year it was only eighty-five cents. These figures show that the County has a large taxable property and that a small rate not only takes care of the interest on the debt, but also provides for the liquidation of the same, yet puts into the County treasury, for the purpose of public improvement, a sum that keeps Shelby County in the lead of her sister counties of the State.

THE ARCHITECT OF THE PYRAMID.

James B. Cook, Architect, the designer of the Shelby County Pyramid Exhibit Building at the Tennessee Centennial, has been a resident architect of Memphis for the last forty years.

Mr. Cook is of English parentage and was born near the city of London some three-score years ago. He was educated at King's College, London, and at the age of sixteen he entered Putney College, near London, an institution devoted exclusively to the education of young men for the professions of architects and civil engineers. After a full course of five years, Mr. Cook graduated with honors, and received his diploma as an architect and civil engineer. After leaving college he traveled through Germany, France and Italy to more thoroughly perfect himself professionally. He also busied himself with sculpture and painting, taking lessons from the best masters in these arts.

Mr. Cook on returning to England was appointed to supervise the erection of the iron bridges Victoria and Albert across the Thames river at Windsor Castle. After which he was appointed one of the supervisors for the erection of the First Crystal Palace Exhibit at Hyde Park, London, in 1851. At its completion he was sent by a commission to Central America to make explorations and to map out the most feasible route across the Isthmus. His report to this commission was not only published in England and America but in 1862 was read to Congress. On his return to England he was elected a Fellow of the Royal Institution of Great Britain, then conducted by the celebrated Prof. Faraday. He was also, in view of his explorations in Central America, elected a member of the Geographical Society of Berlin, following which, he was created a Doctor of Natural Philosophy.

Mr. Cook was a protege of the late Baron Von Humboldt and under his advice, and with a strong letter of general recommendation from this celebrated scientist, he came to this country, landing in New York in 1854.

In New York Mr. Cook found abundant technical work, but left that city upon a large commission in Cincinnati where he fol-

JAMES B. COOK,
ARCHITECT SHELBY COUNTY CENTENNIAL BUILDING

lowed his profession until he was called to Memphis in 1857 to rebuild and renovate the old Gayoso Hotel, which when completed was considered one of the finest hotels in the country. After the completion of this work, Mr. Cook opened his office in Memphis as an architect and civil engineer and received well merited patronage until the breaking out of the war. When, like many others, his services were found necessary to the Confederate government. He was appointed chief of submarine batteries by William Richardson Hunt, ordinance officer, in 1861. In 1862 he was transferred to New Orleans, and there made chief of submarine batteries by Maj. Gen. Lovels. He was at the taking of Columbus and Fort Donelson and also at the fall of New Orleans.

Mr. Cook is the originator of the submarine system of warfare, and was the first to explode his batteries by electricity. Such submarine system was then in its infancy but now it is an important factor in the warfare of all nations.

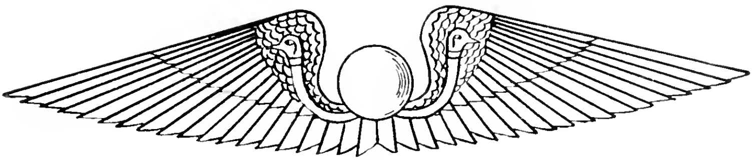
After hostilities had ceased Mr. Cook again opened his office in Memphis and has steadily pursued his profession. His ability and taste are well illustrated in the numerous buildings he has erected both of a public and private character in this and adjoining States.

He is devoted to his profession, is a close student, both in art and science, a forcible writer on technical subjects, and a good exponent of the same. He is positive in speech, of dignified address and has a fine intellectual appearance.

He is one of the oldest Fellows of the American Institute of Architects and is one of its directors, and has been lately honored by the distinction of a membership in the Academy of Sciences of New York.

Mr. Cook is the Nestor of Memphis architects. Very many of the most successful followers of the profession in Memphis have graduated from his office.

He believes in Memphis, and thinks a tolerance of action and a broad conservative legislation will make it the coming city of the South.



THE WINGED DISC FROM THE TEMPLE OF TAHUTMES III.

CHEOPS.

It was in August, 1896, that the Shelby County Centennial Committee invited the architects of Shelby County to submit plans for the Shelby County building to be erected at the Tennessee Centennial.

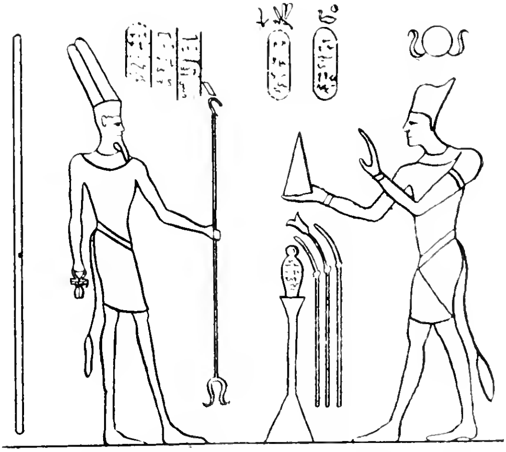
The architect of the structure, James B. Cook, as now erected on the Centennial grounds, in thinking over the matter felt that a great problem was to be solved, which would give to the Shelby County building a proper and permanent standing among the others. To accomplish this with a limited appropriation was, indeed, a difficulty, as in many instances buildings had already been erected costing ten times the sum appropriated by Shelby County. An attempt to adopt the line and style of the architecture so prevalent among the already contemplated buildings would make that of Shelby County greatly subordinate, and without any individuality. In order, then, to accomplish this object something peculiar was desirable. The various styles of architecture had to be traversed. The pure classical architecture of Greece was represented in all its beauty and glory by the reproduction of the Parthenon, from the published drawings of Penrose. The free and go easy carpenter architecture of the Colonial style and every other unnamable style, including

Italian and French, were also represented, together with a dash of Roman and Queen Anne.

The Egyptian style had not been introduced. It suggested a key to the problem. Memphis of ancient Egypt was the key. The problem was solved, and the great pyramid of Cheops was the solution. On this happy conception the idea was worked out and submitted for the consideration of the Shelby County Centennial Committee. The Committee selected the pyramid plan from among many others and has not regretted the choice. The building as now constructed is an adaptation for Exposition purposes of the Egyptian pyramid Cheops; with an altitude of 100 feet, symbolizing the Centennial of Tennessee. It stands as one of the most remarkable buildings on the Centennial grounds, and is the admiration of all who behold it.

The Egyptian style of architecture as it appears in the Shelby County building is of the Fourth Dynasty. The building is 115 feet on its base line and 100 feet perpendicular height. On each side of the pyramid a portico is placed. Not less in Egypt than in Greece did the architects lavish their taste upon porticos; witness those of Deuderah, Esne, and Edfou, which are among the most distinguished of ancient Egyptian architecture. The porticos on the pyramid are regarded as its chief architectural feature and the sovereign objects of the whole building.

The interior of the pyramid has a floor space of 83x83 feet, with an altitude of 50 feet. The ceiling is coved. From the center of the floor rises a column 50 feet high, 6 feet in diameter, tapering to 5 feet at the neck, the whole surmounted with an enriched capital. The structure appears to be built of stone. The coloring and symbolical designs are in strict accord with the Egyptian original, endeavoring as far as possible to make the building, as it appears on the Centennial grounds, an object lesson in Egyptian art and architecture. As located it is supposed to be in exactly the same orientation as its original in Egypt.



SYMBOLIC CARVING TAKEN FROM THE GREAT CENTRAL COLUMN.

EGYPTOLOGY.

The habitable land of Egypt is a narrow strip a few miles wide, extending from the Nile to the desert. About one hundred miles up the river is Cairo, and close to it is Memphis, the old capital of Egypt and the great pyramid Gizeh, Cheops. Next to Cheops is Chepheren and beyond lies the third and smallest, Mycerinus. Besides these, in the Necropolis of Memphis there are sixty or more smaller ones; but for this history we will confine ourselves to the three pyramids of Gizeh, as the most remarkable and best known of the pyramids of Egypt.

The dimensions of these as given by Ferguson in his History of Architecture are:

	Square of Base.	Height.
Cheops	764 feet.	480 feet.
Chepheren	704 "	454 "
Mycerinus	354 "	218 "

The area of the Great Pyramid covers more than thirteen acres and is more than twice the extent of any other building in the world.

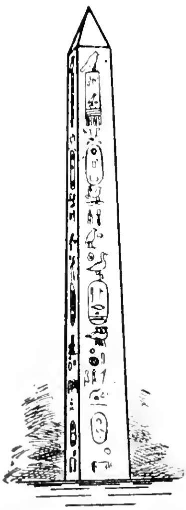
All the pyramids, with one exception, face exactly north, being on the true meridian.

The Pyramid of Cheops is the most gigantic architectural undertaking in the world and a work of construction that has not, and probably will never be surpassed.

The principles adopted in planning these structures have been amongst investigators a source of considerable speculation. The most reasonable conclusion is that each side was laid off for an equilateral triangle, sloping the same from the base line and bringing the apexes together the pyramid was formed. All the pyramids have been built of the hardest stone and granite, carved and polished.

Of the Great Pyramid Cheops Herodotus writes that this gigantic edifice was erected by the caprice of King Cheops. This king was a tyrant of the very worst kind, who closed all the temples throughout Egypt, forbade every sort of religious observance and required extraordinary labor from all his subjects. Among his many whims he conceived the idea of building this pyramid as a tomb for himself. The stones were quarried in the Arabian Mountains, and none were less than thirty feet long. They were then conveyed by way of the Nile to a newly constructed road, three-quarters of a mile long, sixty feet broad, and through a cutting of forty-eight feet deep. This road was of polished stone, which was elaborately carved with figures. It took ten years to complete the roadway and twenty years were spent in building the pyramid.

It is a solid mass of stone and granite and built in 202 regular courses of two to five feet, each receding from the one below. The structure contains 85,000,000 cubic feet of stone, to place which 100,000 men labored for twenty years. The probable cost was about $40,000,000.

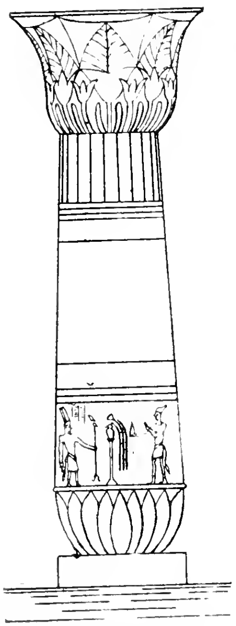

Obelisk at Karnac erected by Thothmes I.

The second pyramid, close to the first, was built by the successor of Cheops, who was named Chepheron ; but the inscriptions on the stones give the name Shafra. The sides of its base are about sixty feet less than that of Cheops. About forty years later Mycerinus or Mencheres built a third; but the side of the base is only about 364 feet, or less than half of that of the Great Pyramid. It was, however, entirely faced with polished granite, while the others were faced with limestone.

The number of pyramids on the range of cliffs overlooking the Nile from Abooroash in the North to Illahoon in the South, is in the neighborhood of 100. The construction of pyramids seems to have ended in lower Egypt at a very early date, probably with the old dynasty of Memphis.

The erection of Cheops occurred, according to the best authors, nearly 2,170 years B. C. To realize such a date one has to think back forty centuries. After all these forty centuries the chisel marks of the masons are as easily seen as when first cut. These Egyptians not only produced marvels in their pyramids, but they excelled all others in their tombs and temples, their obelisks and sphynxes. In domestic art they were masters, for in all the conveniences and elegancies of building they seem to have anticipated everything that has been accomplished in modern times.

DECORATIVE INSTINCT OF EGYPTIANS.



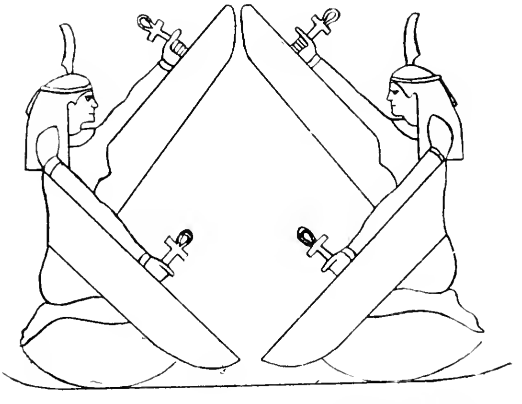
Central Column from the Palace-Temple at Karnac.

The Egyptians were eminently well versed in decorative art. On the larger questions of the aesthetic in schemes of design, of the meaning of ornament, symbolic or religious, and of the value and effect of color, they possessed full knowledge of true decorative effect. Their love of form and drawing was inherent, and in all their decorative work they never lost sight of the original pictures. This remained with them as shown by their hieroglyphic pictures. They might modify for taste and fashion, yet the artistic form remained to the very end.

Their hieroglyphs were not only a writing but a decoration. Their position was ruled for a motif, and the arrangement of groups of hieroglyphs was always maintained for decorative effect.

The Egyptian, with true decorative instinct, clung to his pictorial writing, and was rewarded by having the most beautiful chirography that has ever existed. This is seen in their adaptation of the scenes of peace and war to the gigantic mural surfaces of the pylons and temples, in their arrangements of ornament on small objects of daily life and in all things decorative either in color or drawing.

To study the elements of decorative design, both in color and in drawing, it is to Egypt we must turn for our inspiration. All our knowledge of decorative art is but an evolution from the Egyptian,



CHERUBIC FIGURES WITH THE TAU CROSS FROM THE ARK OF AMEURA UNDER TAHUTMES III.

changed and modified, but, by analysis, still Egyptian. It is from this source we get our simplest forms of geometrical ornament, of lines, spirals and curves, and the division of surfaces by curves and straight lines. In symbolic ornamentation the Egyptians showed a master spirit. In symbolizing secular or religious meanings they were unsurpassed.

CHEOPS OF EGYPT.

This pyramid of Cheops transcends the other pyramids in intellectual value. It is instructive not only on account of its giant size, but its wondrous internal structure, its superior age and its inscrutable destiny of purpose; the greatest of the seven wonders of the world in the days of the Greeks, and the only one of them still in existence. It is the earliest stone building erected in any country in the world, and it has ever been styled a wondrous and mysterious monument. Was this monument erected to symbolize in any way the religion of the Egyptians of that period? It seems not, as in this great pyramid, situated as it was in the midst of tombs, temples and monuments, all uniformly covered with idolatrous emblems and inscriptions, there has not yet been found in all the thirteen acres of masonry one ancient inscription, votive record or the slightest idea of idolatry.

For what purpose and under whose direction this great pyramid was built is a mystery of mysteries. Its solution has been sought for countless ages by all nations, yet no answer has come from the past, and all speculations in the matter have been proven untenable. It is today a prehistoric monument of grand design and pure conception. A petrification of wisdom and truth written with pens of iron on imperishable memorial rocks.

PYRAMID LORE.

The legends and traditions respecting the origin and intent of the great pyramid are interesting and numerous. However near the truth they may be, they, one and all, unite in bearing witness that the Pyramid of Cheops is the most astonishing work ever produced by man.

The Jews, up to the Saviour's time, believed in the tradition that this pyramid was built before the flood.

Josephus gives it as historic fact that Seth and his immediate descendants were the inventors of that peculiar sort of wisdom which is concerned with the heavenly bodies and their order. And that their inventions might not be lost before they were sufficiently known, upon Adam's prediction that the world was to be destroyed, they made two pillars, the one of brick, the other of stone. They inscribed their discoveries on them both, that in case the pillar of brick should be destroyed, the pillar of stone might remain and exhibit their discoveries to mankind. He adds that this pillar remains in the land of Siriad (Egypt) to this day.

The Arabians had a corresponding tradition, in this wise: Their wise men, foreseeing an impending judgment from Heaven in the destruction by flood of every created thing, built upon the tops of the mountains in Upper Egypt many pyramids of stone in order to have places of refuge. These buildings were constructed of large blocks of marble, and upon their exteriors every charm and wonder of physics was inscribed.

The Scarab, the Sacred Beetle of the Egyptians.

Another Arab writer says, that on the Great Pyramid the heavenly spheres were inscribed with the history and chronicles of the past and of the future.

Another Arab says that innumerable precious things were treasured in these buildings, including the mysteries of science, astronomy, geometry, physics and much useful knowledge.

Another writer says they were constructed to preserve the arts and sciences and other intelligence during the flood, Modern opinions are diverse and contradictory, nevertheless of interest to those who delight in Egyptology.

Pliny says they were built for ostentation.

Hales calls them "stupendous monuments of ancient ostentation and tyranny."

Robinson refers to them as probably the earliest, as well as the loftiest and most vast of all existing works of man upon the face of the earth.

Some writers trace the pyramids to Nimrod and think they were meant to be towers of security.

Others have regarded the pyramids as astronomical observatories.

The tomb theory has, probably, more advocates than any other, but those who have in late years devoted themselves to the study of Egyptology are satisfied that though the tomb theory may be possible, it is very improbable. These later investigators are of the opinion that something wholly distinct from mere sepulchre—something additional and of greater significance was the aim of the builder of this wonderful structure of Cheops.

Sandys considers it a tomb built with special reference to the symbolization of spiritual doctrines and hopes, together with "conceits from astronomical demonstrations."

Graves believes it built for a tomb, but framed to represent spiritual ideas.

Shaw pronounces it a temple of religious mysteries.

Perry says it was built for special reference to sacred beliefs.

Jomard says that this pyramid is likely to prove itself gifted with something of great value to the civilized world.

Wilkinson says they were intended for astronomical purposes.

Wm. St. John holds them as intended for religious uses and symbolism.

Agnew likens them to the embodiment of science. Emblems of the sacred sphere, exhibited in the most convenient architectural form.

Sir Isaac Newton considers the pyramid as an important source regarding the subject of measures.

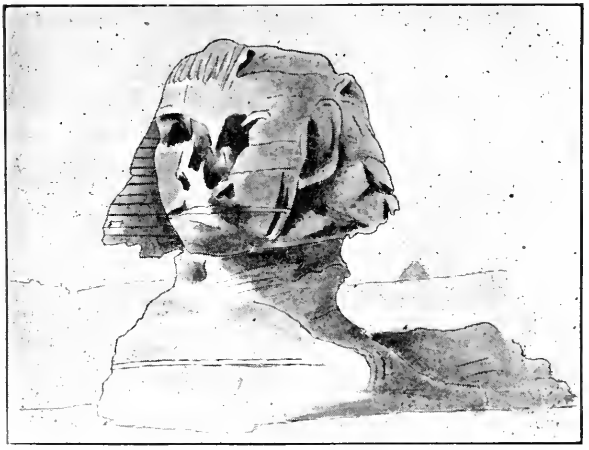
Becket Denison admits it to be a highly scientific monument of metrology, mathematics and astronomy.

These different opinions are given regarding the origin, use and purpose of this Great Pyramid of Gizeh that the reader may have some idea of the diversity of opinions of the world's most learned Egyptologists.

A study of the subject convinces one that such a gigantic enterprise was conducted for a greater purpose than a mere tomb. Leaving the tomb theory to one side the structure is a revelation in the mysteries of science, the key to the problems of unknown quantities, a record of the past and a revelation for the future.

Popular history credits King Cheops with being the architect of the Pyramid, but a celebrated author on Egyptology has developed and ingenious theory tending to give this honor to Job. This author declares, and points to authorities to sustain him, that while the Pyramid was being erected, a distinguished stranger abode in Egypt, following the pursuit of a shepherd. Herodotus says they commonly called the pyramid after Philition, a shepherd, who at that time fed his flocks about the spot where it was being built. From this co-incidence the author referred to traces the identity of this shepherd to Melchizedec. On searching our Bible and referring to various passages it would appear that Job and Melchizedec were one and the same person. Thus this ingenious hypothesis connects the origin of the great pyramid with a mighty people, wholly separate from the Egyptians.

This last theory is very satisfactory to Christianity as it attributes to the forefathers of the Christians not only The Book but The Edifice of the World.



THE GREAT SPHYNX OF GIZEH.

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THE PYRAMIDS OF GHIZEH, EGYPT.

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